

URETHANE ELASTOMER WITH IMPROVED COLOR STABILITY

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Inventor: BULPETT DAVID A; WU SHENSHEN; HARRIS KEVIN M; KUNTIMADDI MANJARI; LUTZ MICHELL E

Applicant: ACUSHNET CO

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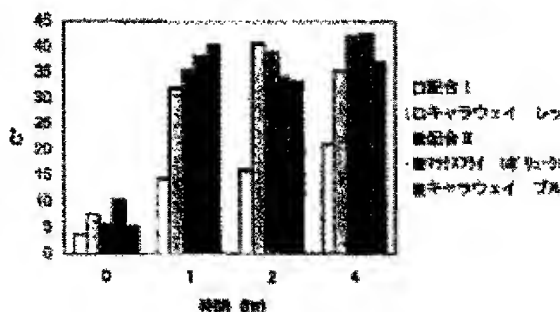
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Abstract of JP2002159596

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a golf ball having urethane elastomer with improved in color stability. SOLUTION: This golf ball includes the center, cover, and at least one intermediate layer arranged between the center and the cover. The cover is made of the polyurethane composition including at least one polyol, at least one poly-isocyanate, at least one hardening agent and at least one color stabilizer, or the reactive products thereof. A quantity of the color stabilizer enough to generate the ΔC^* smaller than about 22 when radiating the UV lays for one hour of time frame is included. In one mode, the cover has the Shore hardness smaller than about 80, a bending modulus smaller than about 689.5 MPa (100,000 psi), the dimple coverage larger than about 60% and the ATTI compression smaller than about 120.

常用のポリウレタンのUV光に対する配合1の値



URETHANE ELASTOMERS WITH IMPROVED COLOR STABILITY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates generally to golf balls and, in one embodiment, to golf ball covers formed of a polyurethane composition. The polyurethane composition of the invention includes a pre-polymer, a curing agent, and a UV stabilizer package for improved color stability.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Golf balls, whether of solid or wound construction, generally include a core and a cover. It is known in the art to modify the properties of a conventional solid ball by altering the typical single layer core and single cover layer construction to provide a ball having at least one mantle layer disposed between the cover and the core. The core may be solid or liquid-filled, and may be formed of a single layer or one or more layers. Covers, in addition to cores, may also be formed of one or more layers. These multi-layer cores and covers are sometimes known as "dual core" and "dual cover" golf balls, respectively. Additionally, many golf balls contain one or more intermediate layers that can be of solid construction or, in many cases, be formed of a tensioned elastomeric winding, which are referred to as wound balls. The difference in playing characteristics resulting from these different types of constructions can be quite significant. The playing characteristics of multi-layer balls, such as "feel" and compression, can be tailored by varying the properties of one or more of these intermediate and/or cover layers.

Manufacturers generally provide the golf ball with a durable cover material, such as an ionomer resin, or a softer cover material, such as balata or polyurethane. Balata is a natural or synthetic trans-polyisoprene rubber that is a favored cover material for highly-skilled golfers because of its softness. Balata-covered balls, however, are easily damaged, and therefore lack the durability required by the recreational golfer.

Ionomer resins have in many situations replaced balata as a cover material. Chemically, ionomer resins are a copolymer of an olefin and an α,β -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid having 10-90% of the carboxylic acid groups neutralized by a metal ion and are distinguished by the type of metal ion, the amount of acid, and the degree of neutralization. Commercially available ionomer resins include copolymers of ethylene and methacrylic or acrylic acid

neutralized with metal salts. Examples include SURLYN® from E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. of Wilmington, DE and IOTEX® from Exxon Corporation of Houston, TX.

Surrounding the core with an ionomeric cover material provides a ball that is virtually indestructible by golfers. The core/cover combination permits golfers to impart a high initial velocity to the ball that results in improved distance. Because the materials used to form solid golf balls are very rigid, however, solid balls generally have a hard "feel" when struck with a club.

A number of patents have been issued that are directed towards modifying the properties of layers used in forming wound balls, conventional solid balls, multi-layer balls having dual cover layers, dual core layers, and/or balls having a mantle layer disposed between the cover and the core. For example, U.S. Patent No. 3,147,324 is directed to a method of making a golf ball having a polyurethane cover.

Polyurethanes are used in a wide variety of applications including adhesives, sealants, coatings, fibers, injection molding components, thermoplastic parts, elastomers, and both rigid and flexible foams. Polyurethane can be produced by the product of a reaction between a polyurethane prepolymer and a curing agent. The polyurethane prepolymer is generally a product formed by a reaction between a polyol and a diisocyanate. The curing agents used previously are typically diamines or glycols. A catalyst is often employed to promote the reaction between the curing agent and the polyurethane prepolymer.

Since about 1960, various companies have investigated the usefulness of polyurethane as a golf ball cover material. U.S. Patent No. 4,123,061 teaches a golf ball made from a polyurethane prepolymer of polyether and a curing agent, such as a trifunctional polyol, a tetrafunctional polyol, or a fast-reacting diamine. U.S. Patent No. 5,334,673 discloses the use of two categories of polyurethane available on the market, i.e., thermoset and thermoplastic polyurethanes, for forming golf ball covers and, in particular, thermoset polyurethane covered golf balls made from a composition of polyurethane prepolymer and a slow-reacting amine curing agent, and/or a difunctional glycol.

Additionally, U.S. Patent No. 3,989,568 discloses a three-component system employing either one or two polyurethane prepolymers and one or two polyol or fast-reacting diamine curing agents. The reactants chosen for the system must have different rates of reactions within two or more competing reactions.

U.S. Patent No. 5,692,974 discloses methods of using cationic ionomers in golf ball cover compositions. Additionally, the patent relates to golf balls having covers and/or cores incorporating urethane ionomers. Improved resiliency and initial velocity are achieved by the addition of an alkylating agent such as t-butyl-chloride, which induces ionic interactions in the polyurethane to produce cationic type ionomers.

International Patent Application WO 98/57929 discloses a composition for golf ball covers that comprises a blend of a diisocyanate/polyol prepolymer and a curing agent including a blend of a slow-reacting diamine and a fast-reacting diamine. Improved "feel," playability, and durability characteristics are exhibited.

One problem manufacturers have encountered with many polyurethane compositions is the tendency of these elastomers to react with molecular oxygen in a degradation process called "auto-oxidation." This degradation process results in undesirable changes, such as product discoloration and loss of physical properties. Autooxidation may be initiated by heat (thermo-oxidative degradation), high energy radiation (photodegradation), mechanical stress, catalyst residues, or through reaction with other impurities. However, photodegradation by ultraviolet ("UV") radiation is believed to be the most damaging of these autooxidation mechanisms. Thermo-oxidation and photodegradation processes are initiated with the formation of free radicals. These free radicals react rapidly with oxygen to form peroxy radicals. These peroxy radicals may further react with the polymer chains leading to the formation of hydroperoxides. On exposure to additional heat or light, hydroperoxides decompose to yield more radicals that can reinitiate the degradation process.

UV absorbers protect against photodegradation by "competing" with the polymer for absorption of ultraviolet light. An ideal UV absorber should be very light stable and should have a broad, intense absorption over the UV range from about 290 nm to 400 nm.

Antioxidants, on the other hand, interrupt the degradation process in different ways according to their structure. The major classifications of antioxidants are primary antioxidants and secondary antioxidants. Primary antioxidants, such as sterically hindered phenols, react rapidly with peroxy radicals (ROO•) to break the degradation cycle. Secondary antioxidants, such as arylamines, are more reactive toward oxygen-centered radicals than are hindered phenols. The secondary antioxidants react with hydroperoxide (ROOH) to yield non-radical, non-reactive products, and are frequently called hydroperoxide decomposers.

The color instability caused by both thermo-oxidative degradation and photodegradation typically results in a "yellowing" or "browning" of the polyurethane layer, an undesirable characteristic for urethane compositions are to be used in the covers of golf balls, which are generally white.

Manufacturers have found that the use of primary antioxidants helps suppress the formation of free radical species and hydroperoxides, and that the use of UV absorbers and hindered amine light stabilizers ("HALS") helps protect polyurethanes from UV light-induced oxidation, either or both of which can result in unwanted discoloration of polyurethane-formed components. Antioxidants include primary antioxidants, such as sterically hindered phenols, that can react rapidly with peroxy radicals, secondary antioxidants, such as hydroperoxide decomposers, that react with hydroperoxide to yield non-radical, non-reactive products. Multifunctional antioxidants, such as hindered amine stabilizers ("HAS"), combine the functions of primary and secondary antioxidants and are known to those of ordinary skill in the art to be structurally interchangeable with HALS. Various references describing such compositions are set forth below.

U.S. Patent No. 5,156,405 to Kiahoh et al. discloses a golf ball having a core, an ionomer cover, and a clear paint outer layer, where the cover and the outer layer each comprise a light stabilizer and a UV absorber. The light stabilizer and a UV absorber are present in the cover in an amount of from 0.1 to 5 parts, based on 100 parts by weight ionomer resin, and in the clear paint in an amount of from about 0.1 to 20 parts, based on 100 parts by weight paint solid. The ratio of the amount of light stabilizer ranges from 75/25 to 25/75 in the cover and from 75/25 to 5/95 in the clear paint.

U.S. Patent No. 5,494,291 to Kennedy discloses a golf ball having a fluorescent cover and a UV light blocking, visibly transparent topcoat. The cover contains a fluorescent material that absorbs at least some UV light at wavelengths greater than 320 nm and emits visible light.

U.S. Patent No. 5,692,974 to Wu et al. discloses golf balls which have covers and cores and which incorporate urethane ionomers. The polyurethane golf ball cover has improved resiliency and initial velocity through the addition of an alkylating agent such as t-butyl chloride to induce ionic interactions in the polyurethane and thereby produce cationic type ionomers. UV stabilizers, antioxidants, and light stabilizers may be added to the cover composition.

U.S. Patent No. 5,823,890 to Maruko et al., discloses a golf ball formed of a cover of an inner and outer cover layer compression molded over a core. The inner and outer cover layers would have a color difference ΔE in Lab color space of up to 3.

U.S. Patent No. 5,840,788 to Luiz et al. discloses a UV light resistant, visibly transparent, urethane golf ball topcoat composition for use with UV curable inks. The topcoat includes an optical brightener that absorbs at least some UV light at wavelengths greater than about 350 nm, and emits visible light, and a stabilizer package. The light stabilizer package includes at least one UV light absorber and, optionally, at least one light stabilizer, such as a HALS.

To date, it has been difficult for manufacturers to properly attain the desired long-term appearance of polyurethane compositions used in golf ball covers without adversely affecting golf ball performance. Many golf balls have at least one layer of "paint" covering the cover material, which paint can be a clear and/or pigmented topcoat material. Those of ordinary skill in the art should readily recognize that repeated blows with a golf club tend to result in exposure of the cover material to harmful UV rays for hours at a time, resulting in undesirable "yellowing" and/or "browning" of the cover material. Further, absent exposure of the polyurethane composition to direct UV radiation, degradation still occurs over a long time period and the resultant discoloration can "bleed" through the paint layer, also discoloring the golf ball cover. This long-felt problem in the golf ball art has now led the Applicants to seek a desirable formulation of a polyurethane composition suitable for use in golf ball covers that exhibits improved color stability upon prolonged exposure to UV light.

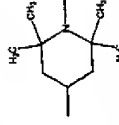
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a golf ball including a center, a cover, and, optionally, at least one intermediate layer disposed between the center and the cover, wherein the cover is formed from a polyurethane composition, or a reaction product thereof, comprising at least one polyol; at least one polysiocyanate; at least one curing agent; and at least one color stabilizer; wherein the color stabilizer is present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.

In one embodiment, the cover has at least one of a material hardness of less than about 80 Shore D, a flexural modulus of less than about 100,000 psi, a dimple coverage of greater than about 60% and an ATTI compression of less than about 120. In a preferred embodiment, the

cover has at least one of a material hardness of less than about 70 Shore D, a flexural modulus of less than about 75,000 psi, a dimple coverage of greater than about 65% and an ATTI compression of less than about 100. In a more preferred embodiment, the cover has at least one of a material hardness of less than about 60 Shore D, a flexural modulus of less than about 60,000 psi, a dimple coverage of greater than about 70% and an ATTI compression of less than about 90.

In another embodiment, the color stabilizer includes UV absorbers, radical scavengers, hindered amine light stabilizers ("light stabilizers"), thermal stabilizers, antioxidants, quenchers,



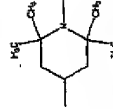
hydroperoxide decomposers, filters, and combinations thereof. Preferably, the color stabilizer includes a UV absorber, a light stabilizer, or a combination thereof. It is preferred that the UV absorber include triazines, benzoxazinones, benzotriazoles, benzophenones, benzoxazones, formamides, cinnamates/propenates, aromatic propenones, benzimidazoles, cycloaliphatic ketones, formamides (including oxamides), cyanosilylates, benzopyranones, and mixtures thereof.

In yet another embodiment, the UV stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.1 weight percent and about 10.0 weight percent. Preferably, the UV stabilizer is present in an amount between about 1.0 weight % to about 7.0 weight %, and more preferably, the UV stabilizer is present in an amount between about 3.0 weight % and about 7.0 weight %.

In an alternative embodiment, the UV stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.1 weight percent and about 6.0 weight percent. Preferably, the UV stabilizer is present in an amount between about 1.0 weight % to about 5.0 weight %, and more preferably, the UV stabilizer is present in an amount between about 3.0 weight % and about 5.0 weight %.

In one embodiment, the light stabilizer comprises bis-(substituted) heteropolycyclicdione; N,N'-1,5-hexanedithiobis [N-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-formamide]; dimethyl succinate polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-1-piperidine ethanol; bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate; hindered amine; 3-dodecyl-1-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-pyrrolidin-2,5-dione; poly-methylpropyl-3-oxy-[4(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl) piperidinyl] siloxane; bis-

1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidiny) sebacate; bis-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidiny) sebacate; is-(1-octyloxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidiny) sebacate; *n*-butyl-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) bis-(1,2,2,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidiny) malonate; bis-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-



piperidiny) sebacate; compounds containing at least one of the following structure:

and mixtures thereof.

Preferably, the light stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.01 weight % and about 3 weight %, more preferably, the light stabilizer is present in an amount between about 1.05 weight % and about 2 weight %, and most preferably, the light stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.1 weight % and about 1.0 weight %.

In one embodiment, the polyisocyanate comprises 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate; polymeric MDI; carbodiimide-modified liquid MDI; 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate; *p*-phenylene diisocyanate; *m*-phenylene diisocyanate, toluene diisocyanate; 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diphenylene diisocyanate; isophoronediiisocyanate; hexamethylene diisocyanate; naphthalene diisocyanate; xylene diisocyanate; *p*-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate; *m*-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate; ethylene diisocyanate; propylene-1,2-diisocyanate; tetramethylene-1,4-diisocyanate; cyclohexyl diisocyanate; 1,6-hexamethylene-diisocyanate; dodecane-1,12-diisocyanate; cyclobutane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,4-diisocyanate; 1-isocyanato-3,3,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane; methyl cyclohexylene diisocyanate; isocyanurate of HDI; isocyanurate of 2,4,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexane diisocyanate; tetraene diisocyanate; naphthalene diisocyanate; anthracene diisocyanate; and mixtures thereof.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the curing agent comprises a polyamine or a polyol. In still another embodiment, the curing agent comprises at least one aromatic polyamine. It is preferred that the polyurethane composition has an initial C^* value of less than about 5 and an L^* value of greater than about 87. More preferably, the polyurethane composition has an initial C^* value of less than about 4 and an L^* value of greater than about 87.

In another preferred embodiment, the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 20 and an L^* value of greater than about 86 after exposure to UV light for 1 hour, and more preferably, the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 15 and an L^* value of greater than about 86 after exposure to UV light for 1 hour.

In another embodiment, the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 25 and an L^* value of greater than about 85 after exposure to UV light for 2 hours, and more preferably, the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 20 and an L^* value of greater than about 85 after exposure to UV light for 2 hours.

In still another embodiment, the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 25 and an L^* value of greater than about 83 after exposure to UV light for 4 hours, and more preferably, the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 23 and an L^* value of greater than about 83 after exposure to UV light for 4 hours. In another embodiment, the polyurethane composition has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -4 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 22 after exposure to UV light for about 1 hour. Preferably, ΔC^* is less than about 1, and more preferably, ΔC^* is less than about 12.

In one embodiment, the polyurethane composition has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -4 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 22 after exposure to UV light for about 2 hours, more preferably, ΔC^* is less than about 15, and most preferably, ΔC^* is less than about 13. In another embodiment, the polyurethane composition has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -7 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 26 after exposure to UV light for about 4 hours, and more preferably, ΔC^* is less than about 18.

In one embodiment, the cover comprises at least an inner cover layer and an outer cover layer comprising the polyurethane composition that is disposed about the inner cover layer. Preferably, the cover is at least about 0.02 inches thick, the cover has a material hardness of less than about 80 Shore D, or both. In another embodiment, a paint layer that is substantially free of UV absorber and light stabilizer is disposed about the cover. It is preferred that the at least one UV absorber and the at least one light stabilizer have a ratio of about 10:1 to about 60:1 and, more preferably, a ratio of about 30:1 to about 50:1.

The present invention is also directed to a golf ball comprising a center, a cover, and at least one intermediate layer disposed between the center and the cover, wherein the cover is formed from a polyurethane composition, or a reaction product thereof, comprising at least one

UV absorber and at least one light stabilizer present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.

The present invention is also directed to a golf ball comprising a center, a cover, and at least one intermediate layer disposed between the center and the cover, wherein the cover is formed from a polyurethane composition, or a reaction product thereof, including a prepolymer comprising at least one diisocyanate and at least one polyol; a curing agent; at least one UV absorber; and at least one light stabilizer, wherein the at least one UV absorber and light stabilizer are present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.

The present invention is also directed to a golf equipment-forming composition including a reaction product of a prepolymer comprising at least one diisocyanate and at least one polyol; a curing agent comprising at least one polyamine; at least one UV absorber; and at least one light stabilizer; wherein the at least one UV absorber and light stabilizer are present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.

The present invention is also directed to a method of inhibiting or preventing color degradation in a golf ball which includes providing a golf ball core; forming a cover about the core, wherein the cover is formed of a polyurethane composition, or a reaction product thereof, comprising at least one polyol, at least one polyisocyanate, at least one curing agent, and a color stabilizer present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.

The present invention is also directed to a method of testing the color stability of a golf ball which includes providing a golf ball having an outermost cover formed of a stabilized polyurethane composition; exposing the outermost cover to UV light for at least one hour; and determining the C^* value and L^* value of the outermost cover.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This invention is directed to golf balls having a core, an optional intermediate layer, and a cover, at least one of which is formed of a polyurethane composition including a color stabilizer package. Preferably, the golf ball cover is formed of the polyurethane composition and includes

the reaction product of a prepolymer including at least one polyisocyanate and at least one polyol, and at least one curing agent, in addition to the color stabilizer package. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the polyisocyanate is 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate ("MDI"), *p*-phenylene diisocyanate ("PPDI"), *m*-phenylene diisocyanate ("MPDI"), toluene diisocyanate ("TDI"), or a mixture thereof, the at least one polyol is polytetramethylene ether glycol ("PTMEG"), the curing agent is at least one of the isomers of 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine, or a mixture thereof, and the color stabilizer package includes at least one of a UV absorber, a HALS, or a mixture thereof. In a most preferred embodiment, the polyisocyanate is MDI, the at least one polyol is PTMEG, the curing agent is at least one of the isomers of 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine, or a mixture thereof, and the color stabilizer package includes at least one of a UV absorber, a HALS, or a mixture thereof.

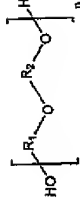
Golf balls formed according to the invention may, for example, have a one-piece construction formed from a homogeneous mass consisting entirely of the polyurethane composition of the invention. Such balls may further include, if desired, blends of conventional golf ball cover and/or intermediate layer materials, such as those discussed herein or other materials available to those of ordinary skill in the art. One-piece balls formed with the materials disclosed herein are durable but do not provide great distance because of their relatively high spin and low velocity. Other embodiments of the present invention include two-piece, multi-layer construction, such as dual-core and dual-cover golf balls, and wound balls having cores, liquid centers, intermediate layers, and/or covers, with one or more of the layers including the polyurethane composition disclosed herein.

As used herein, the term "golf ball core" is used to refer to any portion of a golf ball surrounded by the cover. In the case of a golf ball having three or more layers, the term "golf ball core" includes at least one inner layer and typically refers to a center surrounded by at least one intermediate layer. Golf balls having at least two layers in the core are known as "dual core" golf balls. The center may be solid, gel-filled, hollow, or fluid-filled, e.g., gas or liquid. The term "inner core" is used interchangeably with "center" or "golf ball center," while the term "outer core" is used interchangeably with "intermediate layer" or "at least one intermediate layer." For example, one optional type of intermediate layer is a tensioned elastomeric material wound about the center. When a tensioned elastomeric material is included as an intermediate layer, the polyurethane compositions of the invention may be incorporated into the elastomeric

material, the center, or both. An intermediate layer may be included within a ball having, for example, a single layer or multilayer cover, a single layer or multilayer core, both a single layer cover and core, or both a multilayer cover and a multilayer core, or any similar such combination. Intermediate layers of the type described above are sometimes referred to in the art, and, thus, herein as well, as an inner cover layer, as an outer core layer, or as a mantle layer.

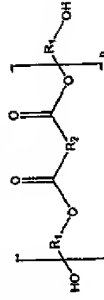
The polyurethane composition of the present invention includes the reaction product of polyisocyanate, at least one polyol, and at least one curing agent. Any polyisocyanate available to one of ordinary skill in the art is suitable for use according to the invention. Exemplary polyisocyanates include, but are not limited to, 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate ("MDI"), polymeric MDI, carbodiimide-modified liquid MDI, 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate ("H₁₂MDI"), *p*-phenylene diisocyanate ("PPDI"), *m*-phenylene diisocyanate ("MPDI"), toluene diisocyanate ("TDI"), 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate ("TODI"), isophoronediiisocyanate ("IPDI"), hexamethylene diisocyanate ("HDI"), naphthalene diisocyanate ("NDI"), xylene diisocyanate ("XDI"), *p*-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate ("p-TMXDI"), *m*-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate ("m-TMXDI"), ethylene diisocyanate; propylene-1,2-diisocyanate; tetramethylene-1,4-diisocyanate; cyclohexyl diisocyanate; 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate ("HDI"); dodecane-1,12-diisocyanate; cyclobutane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,4-diisocyanate; 1-isocyanato-3,3,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane; methyl cyclohexylene diisocyanate; isocyanurate of HDI; triisocyanate of 2,4,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexane diisocyanate ("TMDI"), tetracene diisocyanate, naphthalene diisocyanate, anthracene diisocyanate, and mixtures thereof. Polyisocyanates are known to those of ordinary skill in the art as having more than one isocyanate group, e.g., di-, tri-, and tetra-isocyanate. Preferably, the polyisocyanate includes MDI, PPDI, TDI, or a mixture thereof, and more preferably, the polyisocyanate includes MDI. It should be understood that, as used herein, the term "MDI" includes 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate, polymeric MDI, carbodiimide-modified liquid MDI, and mixtures thereof and, additionally, that the diisocyanate employed may be "low free monomer," understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to have lower levels of "free" isocyanate monomer, typically less than about 0.1% to about 0.5% free monomer. Examples of "low free monomer" diisocyanates include, but are not limited to Low Free Monomer MDI, Low Free Monomer TDI, Low Free MPDI, and Low Free Monomer PPDI.

The at least one polyisocyanate should have less than about 14% unreacted NCO groups. Preferably, the at least one polyisocyanate has less than about 7.9% NCO, more preferably, between about 2.5% and about 7.8%, and most preferably, between about 4% to about 6.5%. Any polyol available to one of ordinary skill in the art is suitable for use according to the invention. Exemplary polyols include, but are not limited to, polyether polyols, hydroxy-terminated polybutadiene and partially/fully hydrogenated derivatives, polyester polyols, polycaprolactone polyols, and polycarbonate polyols. In one preferred embodiment, the polyol includes polyether polyol, more preferably those polyols that have the generic structure:



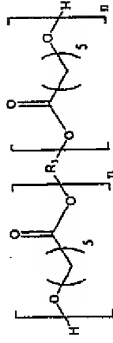
where R₁ and R₂ are straight or branched hydrocarbon chains, each containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and n ranges from 1 to about 45. Examples include, but are not limited to, polytetramethylene ether glycol, polyethylene propylene glycol, polyoxypropylene glycol, and mixtures thereof. The hydrocarbon chain can have saturated or unsaturated bonds and substituted or unsubstituted aromatic and cyclic groups. Preferably, the polyol of the present invention includes PTMEG.

In another embodiment, polyester polyols are included in the polyurethane material of the invention. Preferred polyester polyols have the generic structure:



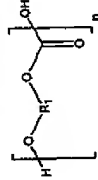
where R₁ and R₂ are straight or branched hydrocarbon chains, each containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and n ranges from 1 to about 25. Suitable polyester polyols include, but are not limited to, polyethylene adipate glycol, polybutylene adipate glycol, polyethylene propylene adipate glycol, ortho-phthalate-1,6-hexanediol, and mixtures thereof. The hydrocarbon chain can have saturated or unsaturated bonds, or substituted or unsubstituted aromatic and cyclic groups. In another embodiment, polycaprolactone polyols are included in the materials of the invention.

Preferably, any polycaprolactone polyols have the generic structure:



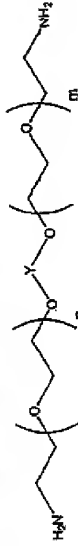
where R_1 is a straight chain or branched hydrocarbon chain containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, and n is the chain length and ranges from 1 to about 20. Suitable polycaprolactone polyols include, but are not limited to, 1,6-hexanediol-initiated polycaprolactone, diethylene glycol initiated polycaprolactone, trimethylol propane initiated polycaprolactone, neopentyl glycol initiated polycaprolactone, 1,4-butanediol-initiated polycaprolactone, and mixtures thereof. The hydrocarbon chain can have saturated or unsaturated bonds, or substituted or unsubstituted aromatic and cyclic groups.

In yet another embodiment, the polycarbonate polyols are included in the polyurethane material of the invention. Preferably, any polycarbonate polyols have the generic structure:



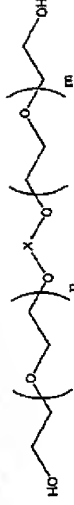
where R_1 is predominantly bisphenol A units $-(p-C_6H_4)-C(CH_3)_2-(p-C_6H_4)-$ or derivatives thereof, and n is the chain length and ranges from 1 to about 20. Suitable polycarbonates include, but are not limited to, polyphthalate carbonate. The hydrocarbon chain can have saturated or unsaturated bonds, or substituted or unsubstituted aromatic and cyclic groups. In one embodiment, the molecular weight of the polyol is from about 200 to about 4000.

Polyamine curatives are also suitable for use in the polyurethane composition of the invention and have been found to improve cut, shear, and impact resistance of the resultant balls. Preferred polyamine curatives have the general formula:



where n and m each separately have values of 0, 1, 2, or 3, and where Y is ortho-cyclohexyl, meta-cyclohexyl, para-cyclohexyl, ortho-phenylene, meta-phenylene, or para-phenylene, or a combination thereof. Preferred polyamine curatives include, but are not limited to, 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine and isomers thereof (tradename ETHACURE 100 and/or ETHACURE 100 LC); 3,5-diethyltoluene-2,4-diamine and isomers thereof, such as 3,5-diethyltoluene-2,6-diamine; 4,4'-bis-(sec-butylamino)-diphenylmethane; 1,4-bis-(sec-butylamino)-benzene; 4,4'-bis-(sec-butylamino)-bis-(2-chloroaniline); 4,4'-methylene-bis-(3-chloro-2,6-diethylaniline); trimethylene glycol-di- p -aminobenzoate; polytetramethyleneoxide-di- p -aminobenzoate; N,N' -dialkylidiamino diphenyl methane; para, para'-methylene diamine (MDA), m -phenylenediamine (MPDA), 4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloroaniline) (MOCA), 4,4'-methylene-bis-(2,6-diethylaniline), 4,4'-diamino-3,3'-diethyl-5,5'-dimethyl diphenylmethane, 2,2', 3,3'-tetrachloro diamino diphenylmethane, 4,4'-methylene-bis-(3-chloro-2,6-diethylaniline), tetrachloro diamino diphenylmethane, 4,4'-methylene glycol di- p -aminobenzoate (VERSALINK 740M), and (LONZACURE M-CDEA), trimethylene glycol di- p -aminobenzoate (VERSALINK 740M), and mixtures thereof. Preferably, the curing agent of the present invention includes 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine and isomers thereof, such as ETHACURE 300, commercially available from Albermarle Corporation of Baton Rouge, LA. Suitable polyamine curatives, which include both primary and secondary amines, preferably have molecular weights ranging from about 64 to about 2000. Preferably, n and m , each separately, have values of 1, 2, or 3, and preferably, 1 or 2.

At least one of a diol, triol, tetraol, hydroxy-terminated, may be added to the aforementioned polyurethane composition. Suitable hydroxy-terminated curatives have the following general chemical structure:



where n and m each separately have values of 0, 1, 2, or 3, and where X is ortho-phenylene, meta-phenylene, para-phenylene, ortho-cyclohexyl, meta-cyclohexyl, or para-cyclohexyl, or mixtures thereof. Preferably, n and m , each separately, have values of 1, 2, or 3, and more preferably, 1 or 2.

Preferred hydroxy-terminated curatives for use in the present invention include at least one of 1,3-bis(2-hydroxyethoxy) benzene and 1,3-bis-(2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethoxy) benzene, and 1,3-bis-(2-(2-hydroxyethoxy) ethoxy) benzene; 1,4-butanediol; resorcinol-di-(β -hydroxyethyl) ether; and hydroquinone-di-(β -hydroxyethyl) ether; and mixtures thereof. Preferably, the hydroxy-terminated curatives have molecular weights ranging from about 48 to 2000. It should be understood that molecular weight, as used herein, is the absolute weight average molecular weight and would be understood as such by one of ordinary skill in the art. Both the hydroxy-terminated and amine curatives can include one or more saturated, unsaturated, aromatic, and cyclic groups. Additionally, the hydroxy-terminated and amine curatives can include one or more halogen groups. Suitable diol, triol, and tetraol groups include ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, lower molecular weight polytetramethylene ether glycol, and mixtures thereof. The polyurethane composition can be formed with a blend or mixture of curing agents. If desired, however, the polyurethane composition may be formed with a single curing agent.

Any method available to one of ordinary skill in the art may be used to combine the polyisocyanate, polyol, and curing agent of the present invention. One commonly employed method, known in the art as a one-shot method, involves concurrent mixing of the polyisocyanate, polyol, and curing agent. This method results in a mixture that is inhomogeneous (more random) and affords the manufacturer less control over the molecular structure of the resultant composition. A preferred method of mixing is known as the prepolymer method. In this method, the polyisocyanate and the polyol are mixed separately prior to addition of the curing agent. This method affords a more homogeneous mixture resulting in a more consistent polymer composition.

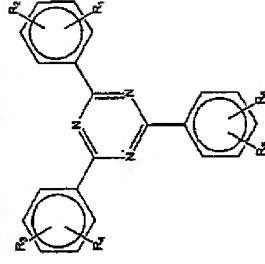
An optional, but preferred, filler component may be chosen to adjust the density of the blends described herein. The selection of such filler(s) is dependent upon the type of golf ball desired (i.e., one-piece, two-piece multi-component, or wound), and any filler available to one of ordinary skill in the art is suitable for use according to the invention. Examples of useful fillers include zinc oxide ("ZnO"), barium sulfate, calcium oxide, calcium carbonate, and silica, as well as any salts and oxides thereof. Additional fillers, such as foaming agents, glass and/or plastic microspheres, and various metals, can be added to the polyurethane compositions of the present invention, in amounts as needed, for their well-known purposes. Additional components which

can be added to the polyurethane composition include UV stabilizers and other dyes, as well as optical brighteners, fluorescent pigments, and dyes. Such additional ingredients may be added in any amounts that will achieve their desired purpose. As discussed herein, however, it is preferred to include one or more color stabilizers according to the invention in at least the outermost layer of the golf ball just beneath the outermost topcoat of the golf ball, which color stabilizer(s) can supplement or replace any conventional UV stabilizers.

Thus, it is also preferred that the polyurethane composition of the present invention include at least one color stabilizer. Color stabilizers include, but are not limited to, UV absorbers, radical scavengers, such as hindered amine light stabilizers ("HALS"), thermal stabilizers and antioxidants, quenchers, such as nickel quenchers, hydroperoxide decomposers, fillers, and mixtures thereof. It has been determined that fillers, such as ZnO and TiO₂, pigments, and paints, have some UV absorbing and/or blocking qualities, and as such, can contribute to the color stability of the polyurethane composition.

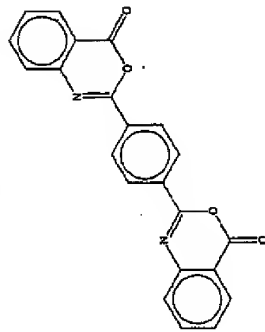
Suitable UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, triazines, benzoxazinones, benzotriazoles, benzophenones, benzoates, formamides, cinnamates/propenoates, aromatic propanediones, benzimidazoles, cycloaliphatic ketones, formamides (including oxamides), cyanoacrylates, benzopyranones, salicylates, and mixtures thereof. Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that these compounds absorb harmful UV light and rapidly convert the light into harmless energy, such that the compounds reduce or prevent the rapid degradation of color in many conventional golf balls.

Preferred substituted triazines include those having the formula:

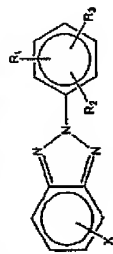


wherein R_1 is H, OH; R_2 is H, alkoxy, alkylester, hydroxyalkoxy; R_3 is alkyl, H; R_4 is alkyl, H, alkylester; R_5 is alkyl, H; and R_6 is alkyl, H, alkylester.

Preferred benzoxazinones include those including the formula:

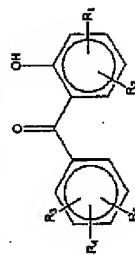


Preferred benzotriazoles include those having the formula:



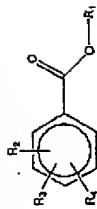
wherein R_1 is OH; R_2 is alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, acryloxyalkyl, (hydroxyphenyl)alkyl, (alkylester)alkyl, (hydroxyalkylether)oxoalkyl, phenylalkyl; R_3 is H, alkyl; and X is Cl, Br, I. Preferably X is Cl.

Preferred benzophenones include those having the formula:



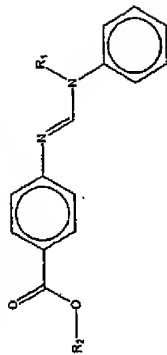
wherein R_1 is OH, alkoxy, alkenoic acid alkoxylester, aryloxy, hydroxyalkoxy, hydroxy(alkylether)alkoxy, (polymerized acrylo)alkoxylester, *o*-alkyl acid ester; R_2 is H, SO_3H , SO_3Na , and R_3 is H, OH; R_4 is H, alkoxy, OH; and R_5 is H, SO_3Na .

Preferred benzoates include those having the formula:



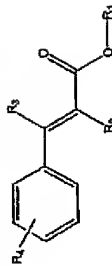
wherein R_1 is hydroxyalkylether, alkyl(phenyl, alkyl, phenyl, hydroxyphenyl); R_2 is H, OH, alkyl, hydroxy(alkylether)amino; R_3 is H, alkyl, OH; and R_4 is H, alkyl.

Preferred formamidines include those having the formula:



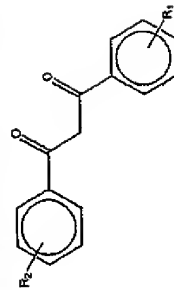
wherein R_1 is alkyl; R_2 is alkyl.

Preferred cinnamates or propenates include those having the formula:



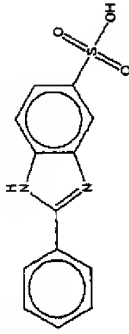
wherein R_1 is alkyl; R_2 is alkylester, cyano; R_3 is H, phenyl; and R_4 is H, alkoxy.

Preferred aromatic propanediones include those having the formula:

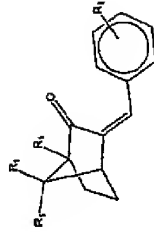


wherein R₁ is alkoxy; and R₂ is alkyl.

Preferred benzimidazoles include those having the formula:

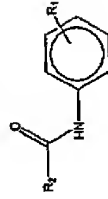


Preferred cycloaliphatic ketones include those having the formula:



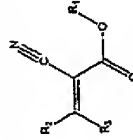
wherein R₁ is alkyl.

Preferred formanilides (including oxamides) include those having the formula:



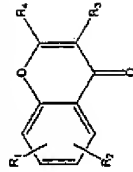
wherein R₁ is alkyl; R₂ is H, formamylde, alkylalkoxy, and/or contains benzimidazole.

Preferred cyanoacrylates include those having the formula:



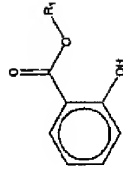
wherein R₁ is alkyl, arylcyanoacrylalkyl; R₂ is phenyl, H, alkylindoline; and R₃ is H, phenyl.

Preferred benzopyranones include those having the formula:



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are OH.

Preferred salicylates include those having the formula:



wherein R₁ is a linear, cyclic, or branched alkyl group.

The above structures are not intended to be inclusive. One of ordinary skill in the art would be aware that "cross-over" between groups exists, including isomeric structures, and as such, these groups are also suitable in the compositions of the invention.

Suitable aromatic propanedione UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 4-*t*-Butyl-4'-methoxydibenzoylmethane or avobenzene, GIVSORB UV-14; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable benzimidazole UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 2-Phenyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-sulfonic acid, GIVSORB UV-16; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable benzophenone UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 2-Hydroxy-4-n-octyloxybenzophenone, UVINUL 3008; 2-Hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone, UVINUL 3040; 2-Hydroxy-4-methoxy-5-sulfobenzophenone or Sulisobenzene, UVINUL MS 40; 2-(4-Benzoyl-3-hydroxyphenoxy)-2-propenoic acid ethyl ester, CYASORB UV 2098; Homopolymer of 4-(2-Acryloyloxyethoxy)-2-hydroxybenzophenone, CYASORB UV 2126; 2,2'-Dihydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone or Dioxbenzone, CYASORB UV 24; 2-Hydroxy-4-(2-hydroxy-3-decyloxypropoxy) benzophenone and 2-Hydroxy-4-(2-hydroxy-3-octyloxypropoxy) benzophenone, MARK 1535; 2,4,4'-Trihydroxybenzophenone, MAXGARD 200; 2-Hydroxy-4-(isooctyloxy) benzophenone, MAXGARD 800; 2-Hydroxy-4-dodecyloxybenzophenone, UVINUL 410; 2,2'-Dihydroxy-4,4'-dimethoxy-5,5'-disulfobenzophenone, disodium salt,

UVINUL 3048; 2,4-Dihydroxybenzophenone or 4-Benzoylfresorcinol, UVINUL 400; 2,2'-Dihydroxy-4,4'-dimethoxybenzophenone, UVINUL D 49; 2,2',4,4'-Tetrahydroxybenzophenone, UVINUL X-19; 2-Hydroxy-4-benzoyloxybenzophenone, Seesorb 105; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable benzopyranone UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 3,3',4',5,7-pentahydroxyflavone or quercetin; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable benzotriazole UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 2-[2-hydroxy-5-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenyl]benzotriazole, TINUVIN 329; 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-(2-hydroxyethyl)benzotriazole, NORBLOC 6000; 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloyloxyethylphenyl)-2H-benzotriazole, NORBLOC 7966; 1,1,1-tris (hydroxyphenyl) ethane benzotriazole, THPE BZT; 5-*t*-butyl-3-(5-chloro-2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-hydroxybenzenepropanoic acid octyl ester and 3-(5-chloro-2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzenepropanoic acid octyl ester, TINUVIN 109; *a*-[3-[3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl]-1-oxopropyl]-*w*-hydroxypoly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl) and *a*-[3-[3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl]-1-oxopropyl]-*w*-[3-[3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl]-1-oxopropyl]poly(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl), TINUVIN 1130; 2-(2-Hydroxy-3,5-di-*t*-butylphenyl) benzotriazole, TINUVIN 320; 2-(2-Hydroxy-3-*t*-butyl-5-methylphenyl)-5-chloro-2H-benzotriazole, TINUVIN 326; 2-(3'-5'-di-*t*-butyl-2'-hydroxyphenyl)-5-chlorobenzotriazole, TINUVIN 327; 2-(2-Hydroxy-3,5-di-*t*-amylphenyl)benzotriazole, TINUVIN 328; 3-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzenepropanoic acid, TINUVIN 384; 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-methyl-6-dodecylphenol, TINUVIN 571; 3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxy-1,6-hexanediyl ester of benzenepropanoic acid and 3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxy-methyl ester of benzenepropanoic acid, TINUVIN 840; 2-[2-hydroxy-3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylbenzyl)phenyl]-2H-benzotriazole, TINUVIN 900; 2-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-6-(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)-4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol, TINUVIN 928; 3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzenepropanoic acid, C7-9 branched and linear alkyl esters, TINUVIN 99; 2-(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl) benzotriazole, TINUVIN P; 2-(2'-hydroxy-3'-sec-butyl-5'-*t*-butylphenyl) benzotriazole, TINUVIN 350; 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-*t*-butylphenyl) benzotriazole, TINUVIN P8; bis[2-hydroxy-3-(2H-benzotriazol-2-yl)-5-octylphenyl]methane, TINUVIN 360; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable benzoate UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, hexadecyl 3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoate, CYASORB UV 2908; 3-hydroxyphenylbenzoate, SEESORB 300; ethyl-4-[[[(ethylphenylamino)methylene]amino]benzoate, GIVSORB UV-1; Phenyl 2-hydroxybenzoate or phenylacrylate, SEESORB 201; 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenyl-3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzoate, TINUVIN 120; 4-Bis(polyethoxy)amino acid polyethoxy ethyl ester, UVINUL P 25; 4-*t*-Butylphenyl 2-hydroxybenzoate or 4-*t*-butylphenylsalicylate, Seesorb 202; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable benzoxazinone UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 2,2'-(*p*-phenylene)di-3,1-benzoxazin-4-one, CYASORB 3638; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable cinnamates or propenates UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, dimethyl (*p*-methoxybenzylidene) malonate, SANDUVOR PR 25; 3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-propenoic acid 2-ethylhexyl ester or octyl *p*-methoxycinnamate, UVINUL 3039; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable cyanoacrylate UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, ethyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate, UVINUL 3035; 2-ethylhexyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate, UVINUL 3039; 1,3-bis-[(2'-cyano-3,3-diphenylacryloyl)oxy]-2,2-bis-[[[(2-cyano-3,3'-diphenylacryloyl)oxy]methyl]propane, UVINUL 3030; 2-Cyano-3-(2-methylindolinyl)methylacrylate, UV Absorber Bayer 340; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable cycloaliphatic ketone UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 3-(4-methylbenzylidene)-D,L-camphor, GIVSORB UV-15; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable formamide UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, Ethyl-4-[[[(methylphenylamino)methylene]amino]benzoate, GIVSORB UV-2; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable formanilide (including oxamide) UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, N-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-N'-(4-isododecylphenyl) oxamide, SANDUVOR 3206; N-[5-*t*-Butyl-2-ethoxyphenyl]-N'-(2-ethylphenyl) oxamide, TINUVIN 312; 2H-benzimidazole-2-N-(2-ethoxyphenyl)-N'-(2-ethylphenyl) oxamide, TINUVIN 315; carboxylic acid (4-ethoxyphenyl) amide, UVINUL PK 4105; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable triazine UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 2-[4,6-bis (2,4-dimethylphenyl)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]-5-octylphenol, CYASORB UV 1164; confidential triazine derivative, TINUVIN 1545; 2-(4,6-diphenyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-5-hexyloxyphenol, TINUVIN 1577 FF; 2-[4-(2-Hydroxy-3-dodecylloxypropyl)oxy]-2-hydroxyphenyl]-4,6-bis(2,4-dimethylphenyl)-1,3,5-triazine, TINUVIN 400; 2,4,6-Triamino-*p*-(carbo-2'-ethylhexyl-1'-oxy)-1,3,5-triazine, UVINUL T-150; and mixtures thereof.

Suitable salicylate UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, 3,3',5'-

trimethylcyclohexylsalicylate or homomentylsalicylate, NEO HELIOPAN HMS; menthyl-*o*-
 iminobenzoate, NEO HELIOPAN MA; and mixtures thereof.

The TINUVIN compounds are commercially available from Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation of Tarrytown, NY; UVINULS are commercially available from BASF Corporation of Charlotte, NC; CYASORBs are commercially available from Cytec Industries Inc. of West Paterson, NJ. SANDUVORs are commercially available from Clariant Corporation of Charlotte, NC; NORBLOCs are commercially available from Janssen Pharmaceutica of Titusville, NJ; Quercetin is commercially available from ACROS Organics of Pittsburgh, PA; MAXGARDS are commercially available from Garrison Industries of El Dorado, AR; SEESORBS are commercially available from Shipro Kasei of Osaka, Japan; MARK compounds are commercially available from Witco Chemical of Oakland, NJ; GIVSORBS are commercially available from Givauden-Roure Corp. of Geneva, Switzerland; and NEO HELIOPANS are commercially available from Haarmann & Reimer of Teterboro, NJ.

Other suitable UV absorbers include inorganic pigments such as titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, barium sulfate, violet, PALLIOTEN Blue L 6385, ultra marine blue, and other blue pigments; and mixtures thereof.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the at least one UV absorber is a liquid.

Preferably, the UV absorber is a liquid when the UV absorber is present in an amount greater than about 1% of the total polyurethane composition. Suitable liquid UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, UVINUL 3039; 2-ethylhexyl *p*-methoxycinnamate, NEO HELIOPAN AV; UVINUL P25; isoamyl *p*-methoxycinnamate, NEO HELIOPAN E1000; 2-ethylhexylsalicylate, NEO HELIOPAN OS; 3,3',5'-trimethylcyclohexylsalicylate or homomentylsalicylate, NEO HELIOPAN HMS; menthyl-*o*-aminobenzoate, NEO HELIOPAN MA; TINUVIN 99; TINUVIN 384; TINUVIN 213; TINUVIN 1130; TINUVIN 109; TINUVIN 400; TINUVIN 571; SANDUVOR 3206; MAXGARD 800; MARK 1535; GIVSORB UV-1; or mixtures thereof.

In a preferred embodiment, the selected UV absorber has an extinction coefficient, ϵ , of greater than about 10,000 L·mol⁻¹·cm⁻¹ at any wavelength between about 290 nm and about 350 nm. More preferably, the selected UV absorber has an ϵ of between about 10,000 L·mol⁻¹·cm⁻¹ and about 30,000 L·mol⁻¹·cm⁻¹ at wavelengths between about 290 nm and about 350 nm, and most preferably, between about 10,000 L·mol⁻¹·cm⁻¹ and about 20,000 L·mol⁻¹·cm⁻¹ at

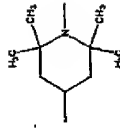
wavelengths between about 290 nm and about 350 nm. Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that spectrally matching the peak absorbance of the UV absorber to that of the polymer composition provides the most ideal color and light stabilization. For example, UV absorbers that have an absorbance maximum at wavelengths higher than the polyurethane composition have been found to be less effective than those that absorb at wavelengths that more closely match the absorbance of the polymer, even if the amplitude of the absorbance is lower.

Preferably, the UV absorbers have certain local absorption maxima between about 280 nm and about 400 nm, as measured in a dilute solution of a non-hydrogen-bonding solvent, such as chloroform or methylene chloride. The UV absorbers may have a single local maximum between about 300 nm to about 360 nm, more preferably between about 315 nm to about 340 nm. Example include, but are not limited to, SANDUVOR VSU, UVINUL 3030, SANDUVOR PR 25, GIVSORB UV-15, and mixtures thereof. Most preferably, the UV absorbers have two local absorption maxima, the first being in the region between about 285 nm and about 315 nm, and the second being in the region between about 320 nm and about 370 nm. Examples of these include, but are not limited to, TINUVIN 328, NORBLOC 6000, NORBLOC 7966, CYASORB 2337, TINUVIN P, GIVSORB UV-13, CYASORB 3638, UVINUL D50, CYASORB UV 24, and mixtures thereof.

Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that radical scavengers, such as hindered amine light stabilizers, function primarily as free radical scavengers. Commercially available examples include, but are not limited to, bis-(1-octyloxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate, TINUVIN 123, *n*-butyl-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) malonate, TINUVIN 144, TINUVIN 292, TINUVIN 400, dimethyl succinate with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidineethanol, TINUVIN 622; bis (1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate, bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate, TINUVIN 765; and bis-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate, TINUVIN 770 from Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation; dimethyl succinate with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-1-piperidineethanol, CHIMASSORB 119; poly[(6-(1,1,3,3-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-*s*-triazine-2,4-diyl)] [(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) imino] hexamethylene [(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)imino], CHIMASSORB 944; and 1,6-hexanediamine, *N,N'*-bis-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl), CHIMASSORB 2020, also from

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation; CYNASORB UV-3581 from Cytec Industries Inc; SANDUVOR 3070 from Clariant Corporation of Charlotte, NC; UVINULS 4049 H and 4050 H from BASF Corporation; bis-(substituted) heteropolycyclicdione, UVINUL 4049 H; N,N'-1,6-hexanediylbis [N-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-formamide], UVINUL 4050 H; dimethyl succinate polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-1-piperidine ethanol, TINUVIN 622LD; hindered amine; SANDUVOR 3070; 3-dodecyl-1-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-pyrrolidin-2,5-dione, CYASORB UV-3581; poly-methylpropyl-3-oxy-[4(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl) piperidinyl] siloxane; bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl)-sebacate; bis-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-sebacate; bis-(1-octyloxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate; n-butyl-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) bis-(1,2,2,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) malonate; bis(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate; and mixtures thereof.

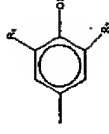
Examples of other suitable HALS typically include, but are not limited to, those containing at least one of the following structure:



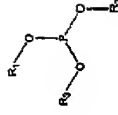
Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that thermal stabilizers and antioxidants protect polymers against thermo-oxidative degradation. These stabilizers include, but not limited to IRGANOX 245, IRGANOX 1010, IRGANOX 1076, IRGANOX 1135, IRGANOX 5057, and IRGANOX MD 1024 from Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation; CYANOX 790 and 1791 from Cytec Industries Inc; SANDOSTAB P-EPQ from Clariant Corporation; UVINULS 2003 AO and 2012 AO from BASF Corporation; tris (monononylphenyl) phosphite, UVINUL 2003 AO; 1-glycerol oleate and DL-alpha-tocopherol, UVINUL 2012 AO; triethyleneglycol bis-93-(3'-*t*-butyl-4'-hydroxy-5'-methyl-phenyl)-propionate, IRGANOX 245; tetrakis[3,5-di-*t*-butylhydroxyhydro-cinnamate]-methane, IRGANOX 1010; 3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxy- hydrocinnamic acid and C7-9-branched alkyl esters, IRGANOX 1135; aryl phosphonite, SANDOSTAB P-EPQ; tris (monononylphenyl) phosphite, NAUGARD P; and mixtures thereof.

Also suitable as antioxidants include, but are not limited to, many hindered phenols, such as 2,6-di-*t*-butyl-4-methyl-phenol; 2,6-di-*t*-butyl-4-nonyl-phenol; 2,2'-methylene-bis-(4-methyl-6-*t*-butyl-phenol); 4,4'-butylidene-bis-(2-*t*-butyl-5-methyl-phenol); 4,4'-thio-bis-(2-*t*-butyl-5-methyl-phenol); 2,2'-thio-bis(6-*t*-butyl-4-methyl-phenol); 2,5-di-*t*-amyl-hydroquinone; polymeric sterically hindered phenol; octadecyl-3-(3',5'-di-*t*-butyl-4'-hydroxyphenyl) propionate; tetakis(2,6-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate) methane; tris (3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) isocyanurate; 2,2'-thiodiethyl bis-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl) propionate; 1,1,3-tris-(2'-methyl-4'-hydroxy-5'-*t*-butyl-phenyl)-butane; 2,2'-methylene-bis-(1-methyl-cyclohexyl)-papa-cresol; 2,4-dimethyl-6-(1-methyl-cyclohexyl)-phenol; N,N'-hexamethylene bis-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxy-hydrocinnamide); octadecyl-3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate; N-phenylbenzenesamine; reaction products with 2,4,4-trimethylpentene; and mixtures thereof.

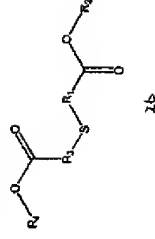
Other suitable antioxidants include hindered phenols with the generic structure:



wherein R₁ and R₂ are *t*-butyl groups, alkyl groups, or oxyalkylenes; phosphites with the generic structure:



wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are alkyl groups or phenyl groups; thioesters having the generic structure:



herein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , and R_4 are alkyl groups; and mixtures thereof.

Phosphites, such as tris-(2,4-di-*t*-butyl-phenyl) phosphite; tris-(2,4-di-*t*-butyl-phenyl) phosphite plus diisobutyl-3,3'-thiodipropionate (about 3% on phosphite); bis-(2,4-di-*t*-butyl-phenyl) pentaerythritol-diphosphite; tetakis-(2,4-di-*t*-butyl-phenyl) 4,4'-biphenylene-phosphonite; tris-(*p*-nonylphenyl) phosphite; diisodecyl-phenyl-phosphite; diphenyl-isodecyl-phosphite; tris(isodecyl)-phosphite; triaryl-phosphite; and mixtures thereof, are also suitable antioxidants, as are many thioesters, such as di-lauryl-3,3'-thio-dipropionate; di-stearyl-3,3'-thio-propionate; and mixtures thereof.

Quenchers are light stabilizers able to take over the energy absorbed by the chromophores present in a plastic material and to dispose of it efficiently to prevent degradation. The energy can be dissipated either as heat or as fluorescent or phosphorescent radiation. For energy transfer to occur from an excited chromophore to the quencher, the latter must have lower energy states than the donor. Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory, it is believed that the transfer can proceed according to two general mechanisms. The first process, a long range energy transfer or Forster mechanism, is based on a dipole-dipole interaction and is usually observed in the quenching of excited singlet states. The distance between chromophore and quencher may be as large as 5 or 10 nm, provided there is a strong overlap between the emission spectrum of the chromophore and the absorption spectrum of the quencher. The Forster mechanism has been considered as a possible stabilization mechanism by typical UV absorbers with extinction coefficients greater than 10,000 L-mol⁻¹ cm⁻¹. Though quenching of carbonyl compounds through this mechanism has been postulated several times it has not been shown unequivocally.

The second type of process quenchers may operate with is the so-called contact, or diffusional, or exchange energy transfer. For an efficient transfer to take place, the distance between quencher and chromophore must not exceed about 1.5 nm. This means that the stabilization that can be achieved will depend on the concentration of the quencher and on the lifetime of the excited donor. Considering the longer lifetimes of excited triplet states compared to those of singlet states, energy transfer from triplet states is more likely.

Suitable quenchers, include, but are not limited to nickel dibutyldithiocarbamate; thio bis 2'-[4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)-phenyl] nickel-2-ethyl hexanoate; *n*-butylamine-nickel-2,2'-

thio bis(4-*t*-octylphenolate); nickel-bis-[2,2'-thio bis (4-*t*-octylphenolate)]; and mixtures thereof, all commercially available from Ciba Corporation.

In another embodiment of the present invention, color stabilization of the polyurethane cover compositions is provided by in situ UV absorbers. In this embodiment, these "reactive" UV stabilizers are chemically bound directly to the polymer backbone, usually to one of the prepolymer components. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that attaching the stabilizers in this manner prevents migration of the stabilizers out of the polymer, and therefore increases the length of time for which color stabilization is provided to the polyurethane composition. Preferred in situ UV absorbers include, but are not limited to, piperidine-based compounds.

The at least one UV stabilizer should be present in an amount between about 0.1 weight percent and about 6.0 weight percent, more preferably between about 1.0 weight percent to about 5.0 weight percent, and most preferably, between about 3.0 weight percent and about 5.0 weight percent. The HALS, if present, is preferably present in an amount between about 0.01 weight percent and about 3 weight percent, more preferably, between about 0.05 weight percent and about 2 weight percent, and most preferably, between about 0.1 weight percent and about 1.0 weight percent.

In a preferred embodiment, the color stabilizer package comprises at least one UV absorber and at least one HALS. Preferably, the ratio of UV absorber to HALS is between about 1:1 to about 100:1, more preferably between about 7:1 to about 70:1, and most preferably, between about 30:1 to about 60:1.

In an alternative embodiment, the color stabilizer package comprises at least one UV absorber and at least one HALS. Preferably, the ratio of UV absorber to HALS is between about 1:1 to about 50:1, more preferably between about 7:1 to about 50:1, and most preferably, between about 30:1 to about 50:1.

It is well known to one of ordinary skill in the art that the human visual system, which consists of rods that are sensitive to lightness and darkness (white and black, respectively), and cones that respond to color, can be simulated using mathematical models. All existing models derive values from a visible spectrum of a material that can be obtained from a color spectrometer (or colorimeter), that measures the intensity of reflected light (for opaque samples) in the region of the electromagnetic spectrum visible to humans (approximately 400 to 740 nm).

The CIELCh and CIELAB systems are standard color systems well known in the art of color and appearance to describe the effective "color" of an object. The differences in color between a reference and a test specimen can easily be expressed in terms of the CIELCh or CIELAB values which indicate both magnitude and direction of color difference. Therefore, either the CIELCh or CIELAB systems can be used to measure the color of the polyurethane compositions of the invention. The CIELCh scale separates the "color" of a sample into three parameters on a cylindrical polar coordinate system. In the CIELCh system, L* defines the darkness or lightness, (black and white) component of a sample. For example, an L* value of 100 is pure white, or completely reflective at all wavelengths, whereas an L* value of 0 is pure black, or absorbing all wavelengths of light. C*, however, is a measure of chroma (saturation) and is a vector distance from the center (L* axis) of the color space. Hue (h°) is the third parameter and is represented as an angle ranging from 0° to 360°, where 0° = red, 90° = yellow, 180° = green, and 270° = blue.

It has been determined that, as an unpainted golf ball cover ages during normal usage due to exposure to UV light, the L* values decrease (become darker) and the C* values increase. The hue tends to remain near 90° (i.e., yellow), and may drift slightly higher into the greenish yellow or slightly lower into the reddish yellow. This is a relatively subtle and less visually perceptible change than the increase in chroma, C*. Since the C* increase is essentially traveling along a hue angle of 90°, a larger C* value, in this case, can be thought of as more yellow. Thus, for the purposes of this invention, it is desirable to minimize the initial C* value (less yellow) of the unpainted cover and also inhibit or prevent C* increase over time, the C* rate of increase, or preferably both, due to exposure to UV radiation, for example. It is also desirable to maximize the initial L* (towards white) value and inhibit or prevent its decrease towards black over time due to exposure to UV or other radiation having a similarly disadvantageous effect on the appearance of golf balls.

Preferably, the polyurethane composition of the invention should have an initial C* value of less than about 5 and an L* value of greater than about 87, preferably, less than about 4 and an L* value of greater than about 87. After exposure to QUV for 1 hour, the polyurethane composition of the invention should preferably have a C* value of less than about 20 and an L* value of greater than about 86, preferably less than about 15 and an L* value of greater than about 86. The QUV is a weathering system that contains a UV lamp and is manufactured by Q-

Panel of Cleveland, OH, and modified to secure golf balls for exposure to UV light as would be recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. The QUV and UV lamp operate as described by ASTM-G53 (now ASTM-G154).

After exposure to QUV for 2 hours, the polyurethane composition of the invention should preferably have a C* value of less than about 25 and an L* value of greater than about 85, preferably less than about 20 and an L* value of greater than about 85. After exposure to QUV for 4 hours, the polyurethane composition of the invention should preferably have a C* value of less than about 25 and an L* value of greater than about 83, preferably less than about 23 and an L* value of greater than about 83.

The change in the C* and L* values of the polyurethane compositions of the invention, ΔC^* and ΔL^* , respectively, can also be measured as a function of time. After exposure to QUV for 1 hour, the polyurethane composition of the invention preferably has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -4 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 22, more preferably less than about 15, and most preferably less than about 12. After exposure to QUV for 2 hours, the polyurethane composition of the invention preferably has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -4 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 22, more preferably less than about 15, and most preferably, less than value of less than about 22, more preferably less than about 15, and most preferably, less than about 13. After exposure to QUV for 4 hours, the polyurethane composition of the invention preferably has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -7 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 26, more preferably less than about 20, and most preferably less than about 18.

In one embodiment, the invention is a multilayer golf ball that includes a core, an inner cover layer, and an outer cover layer. The cover thickness should be at least about 0.02 inches. Preferably, the outer cover layer has a thickness of between about 0.02 and about 0.1 inches, more preferably from about 0.02 to about 0.08 inches. Most preferably, the thickness is from about 0.03 to 0.05 inches.

As discussed herein, the outer cover layer is preferably formed from a relatively soft polyurethane material. In particular, the material of the outer cover layer should have a material hardness, as measured by ASTM D2240-00, of less than about 80 Shore D, preferably less than about 70 Shore D, more preferably less than about 60 Shore D, and most preferably from about 20 Shore C to about 55 Shore D.

The inner cover layer of the present invention, when included, may be formed of any material available to one of ordinary skill in the art, including the polyurethane composition of

the present invention, but it is preferably formed from a hard, high flexural modulus, resilient material. Preferably, the material of the inner cover layer has a material hardness, as measured by ASTM D2240-00, of about 20 to about 80 Shore D, more preferably about 40 to about 70 Shore D, and most preferably about 60 Shore D to about 70 Shore D. The thickness of the inner cover layer will typically be less than about 0.1 inches, but preferably ranges from about 0.01 inches to about 0.08 inches, more preferably from about 0.02 inches to about 0.06 inches, and most preferably from about 0.03 to about 0.04 inches.

The optional inner cover layer may be formed from a wide variety of relatively hard (greater than about 60 Shore D), high flexural modulus (greater than about 55,000 psi) resilient materials. Preferably, the optional inner cover layers have a material hardness of at least about 65 Shore D and more preferably, between about 65 to about 75 Shore D.

Among the preferred inner cover materials are hard, high flexural modulus ionomer resins and blends thereof. These ionomers can be obtained by providing a cross metallic bond to polymers of mono-olefin with at least one member selected from the group consisting of unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acids having 3 to 12 carbon atoms and esters thereof (the polymer contains about 1 to 50% by weight of the unsaturated mono- or di-carboxylic acid and/or ester thereof). More particularly, such acid-containing ethylene copolymer ionomer component includes E/X/Y copolymers where E is ethylene, X is a softening comonomer such as acrylate or methacrylate present in 0 to about 50 (preferably 0 to about 25, most preferably 0 to about 20), weight percent of the polymer, and Y is acrylic or methacrylic acid present in about 5 to 35 (preferably at least about 16, more preferably at least about 16 to 35, most preferably at least about 16 to 20) weight percent of the polymer, wherein the acid moiety is neutralized about 1 to 90% (preferably at least about 40%, most preferably at least about 60%) by a cation such as lithium, sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, barium, lead, tin, zinc, or aluminum, or a combination of such cations, to form an ionomer. Exemplary acid-containing ethylene copolymers include ethylene/acrylic acid, ethylene/methacrylic acid, ethylene/acrylic acid/n-butyl acrylate, ethylene/methacrylic acid/n-butyl acrylate, ethylene/methacrylic acid/iso-butyl methacrylate, ethylene/acrylic acid/iso-butyl acrylate, ethylene/methacrylic acid/n-butyl methacrylate, ethylene/acrylic acid/methyl methacrylate, ethylene/acrylic acid/methyl acrylate, ethylene/methacrylic acid/methyl methacrylate, and ethylene/methacrylic acid/n-butyl methacrylate. Preferred acid-containing ethylene copolymers

include ethylene/methacrylic acid, ethylene/acrylic acid, ethylene/methacrylic acid/n-butyl acrylate, ethylene/acrylic acid/n-butyl acrylate, ethylene/methacrylic acid/methyl acrylate and ethylene/acrylic acid/methyl acrylate copolymers. The most preferred acid-containing ethylene copolymers are ethylene/methacrylic acid, ethylene/acrylic acid, ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid/n-butyl acrylate, ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid/ethyl acrylate, and ethylene/(meth)acrylic acid/methyl acrylate copolymers. Such ionomer resins are commercially available, for example, from E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co. under the tradename SURLYN, and from Exxon under the tradename IOTEK. Some particularly suitable SURLYNs include SURLYN 8140 and SURLYN 8546, each of which has a methacrylic acid content of about 19%.

The materials for the inner cover layer, however, are not limited to ionomer resins. Instead, the present invention contemplates that virtually any relatively hard, high flexural modulus, resilient material known to one of ordinary skill in the art that is compatible with the other materials of the golf ball may be employed as the inner cover layer. Examples of other suitable inner cover materials include thermoplastic or thermoset polyurethanes, thermoplastic or thermoset polyetheresters or polyetheramides, thermoplastic or thermoset polyester, a dynamically vulcanized elastomer, a functionalized styrene-butadiene elastomer, a metalocene polymer, or blends thereof.

Suitable thermoplastic polyetheresters include materials which are commercially available from DuPont under the tradename HYTREL. Suitable thermoplastic polyetheramides include materials which are available from Elf-Atochem under the tradename PEBAX. Other suitable materials for the inner cover layer include polycarbonates, polyimides, nylons, polyamides, polyureas, epoxies, urethane ionomers, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymer, polysulfones, and thermoplastic and thermoset polyurethanes, and combinations thereof.

Thread with various material properties, dimensions, cross-sectional shapes, and methods of manufacturing the thread may be used for any wound layer present in the ball. The material properties of the thread that can be varied include ultimate or maximum elongation and tensile modulus. For example, the thread may be formed from fiber, glass, carbon, or a variety of polymeric materials, including the polymer composition of the present invention. Suitable polymers include polyether urea, such as LYCRA, polyester urea, polyester block copolymers, such as HYTREL, isotactic-poly(propylene), polyethylene, polyamide, polyketone, poly(ethylene terephthalate), such as DACKON, poly(*p*-phenylene terephthalamide), such as

CEVLAR, poly(acrylonitrile), such as ORLON, copolymers of diaminodicyclohexylmethane and dodecanedicarboxylic acid, such as QUIANA, all of which are commercially available from DuPont. Other suitable thread materials include cis-polyisoprene rubber, preferably at least about 60% of a blend of two synthetic cis-1,4 polyisoprene rubbers, and about less than 40% of a natural rubber. It is preferred that the synthetic cis-1,4 polyisoprene rubbers have a cis-1,4 content of at least 90%; however, the cis-1,4 contents may vary for each rubber. Preferred threads are elastomeric, while graphite thread tends to be less preferred than other available thread types due to the difficulty in placing such threads under tension when being wound about a center.

In a particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention, the core is a large, solid core, having a compression of less than about 80. A large core, as used herein, is defined as having a diameter of at least about 1.500 inches.

The materials for solid cores include compositions having a base rubber, a crosslinking agent, a filler, and a co-crosslinking or initiator agent. The base rubber typically includes natural or synthetic rubbers. A preferred base rubber is 1,4-polybutadiene having a cis- structure of at least 40%. If desired, the polybutadiene can also be mixed with other elastomers known in the art such as natural rubber, polyisoprene rubber and/or styrene-butadiene rubber in order to modify the properties of the core.

The crosslinking agent preferably includes a metal salt of an unsaturated fatty acid such as a zinc salt or a magnesium salt of an unsaturated fatty acid having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, such as acrylic or methacrylic acid. Suitable cross linking agents include metal salt diacrylates, dimethacrylates, and monomethacrylates, or a mixture thereof, wherein the metal is, for example, magnesium, calcium, zinc, aluminum, sodium, lithium, or nickel, or a mixture thereof.

The initiator agent can be any known polymerization initiator which decomposes during the cure cycle. Suitable initiators include peroxide compounds, such as dicumyl peroxide, 1,1-di(*t*-butylperoxy) 3,3,5-trimethyl cyclohexane, *a-a'* bis (*t*-butylperoxy) diisopropylbenzene, 2,5-dimethyl-2,5 di(*t*-butylperoxy) hexane, di-*t*-butyl peroxide, or mixtures thereof.

The core may include about 5 to 50 phph of ZnO in a diacrylate-peroxide core system. Zinc oxide may be used in combination with, or be replaced by, about 5 to 50 phph of calcium oxide in a diacrylate-peroxide system to provide a suitable core composition.

As used herein, the term "filler" in connection with the core includes any compound or composition that can be used to vary the density and other properties of the core. Fillers typically includes materials such as zinc oxide, barium sulfate, silica, calcium carbonate, zinc carbonate, reground (recycled core material ground to 30 mesh particle) and the like. Any of the fillers described herein with respect to the cover or intermediate layers are also suitable for use in preparing such solid core formulations.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the core includes a center which is liquid-filled or solid, around which an elastic thread is wound. The solid center is typically a homogeneous mass of a resilient material such as polybutadiene or a natural rubber. The liquid-filled center is typically a thin-walled sphere made from a thermoplastic or a thermoset material into which a liquid such as corn syrup is injected by means of a needle. The sphere is then sealed and typically frozen to make the core a solid mass. The windings for either type of center are typically provided by an elastic thread that is stretched and wound about the center and any other intermediate layers to a desired thickness.

The overall outer diameter of the core, including the center and any intermediate mantle layer(s) or windings, together with the inner cover layer of the golf balls of the present invention, is about 1.51 inches to about 1.64 inches, preferably about 1.59 inches to about 1.63 inches, and most preferably from about 1.60 inches to about 1.62 inches.

The present multilayer golf ball can have an overall diameter of any size. Although the United States Golf Association ("USGA") specifications require the minimum size of a competition golf ball to at least 1.680 inches in diameter, there is no specification as to the maximum diameter. Thus, the preferred diameter of the golf ball of the present invention is about 1.680 inches to about 1.800 inches. The more preferred diameter is from about 1.680 inches to about 1.760 inches. The most preferred diameter is about 1.680 inches to about 1.740 inches.

The core and inner cover of the golf balls of the present invention can be made by any conventional process employed in the golf ball art. For example, the solid centers can be either injection or compression molded. Similarly, the wound centers employed in the present invention can be produced through any means. The optional inner cover layer and any mantle layer(s) can then subsequently be injection or compression molded about the core.

The outer cover layer of the present invention may be formed by any process available to those of ordinary skill in the art, such as by injection molding or compression molding. Due to the preferred thinness (preferably less than about 0.05 inches), however, it is difficult to form the outer cover layers of the ball of the present invention using conventional injection or compression molding techniques ordinarily employed in the golf ball art for applying cover materials. These conventional ball molding processes are not capable of easily applying such thin outer cover layers over a solid spherical surface.

Accordingly, it has been found by the present invention that the use of a castable, reactive material, which is applied in a fluid form, makes it possible to obtain very thin outer cover layers on golf balls. Specifically, it has been found that castable, reactive liquids, which react to form a urethane elastomer material according to the invention, provide desirable, very thin, outer cover layers.

The castable, reactive liquid employed to form the urethane elastomer material can be applied over the inner core using a variety of application techniques such as spraying, dipping, spin coating, or flow coating methods which are well known in the art. An example of a suitable coating technique is that which is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,733,428, filed May 2, 1995, entitled "Method And Apparatus For Forming Polyurethane Cover On A Golf Ball", the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein in its entirety by express reference thereto.

The cover is preferably formed around the coated core by mixing and introducing the polyurethane components in each of a pair of mold halves. It is important that the viscosity be measured over time, so that the subsequent steps of filling each mold half, introducing the core into one half and closing the mold can be properly timed for accomplishing centering of the core over halves fusion and improving overall uniformity and concentricity. A suitable viscosity range of the curing urethane mix for introducing cores into the mold halves is typically about 2,000 cP to about 30,000 cP, with the preferred range of about 8,000 cP to about 15,000 cP.

To start the cover formation, mixing of the prepolymer and curative can be accomplished, typically in motorized mixer including a mixing head, by feeding through lines metered amounts of curative and prepolymer. Top preheated mold halves can be filled and placed in fixture units using pins moving into holes in each mold. After the reacting materials have resided in top mold halves for about 50 to about 80 seconds, a core can be lowered at a controlled speed into the gelling reacting mixture. At a later time, a bottom mold half or a series of bottom mold halves

having similar mixture amounts can be introduced into the cavity. In a preferred embodiment, when diols and secondary amines are used as curing agents, the resulting elastomers can further be processed by injection molding.

A ball cup can hold the ball core through reduced hose pressure or even partial vacuum. Upon location of the coated core in the halves of the mold after gelling for about 50 to about 80 seconds, the vacuum can be released to release the core. The mold halves, with core and solidified cover half thereon, can then be removed from the centering fixture unit, inverted and mated with other mold halves which, at an appropriate earlier time, have had a selected quantity of reacting polyurethane prepolymer and curing agent introduced therein to commence gelling. Similarly, U.S. Patent No. 5,006,297 to Brown et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,334,673 to Wu both also each disclose suitable molding techniques that may be utilized to apply the castable reactive liquids employed in the present invention. The disclosures of each these patents are also hereby incorporated herein in their entirety by express reference thereto. It should be understood, however, that the methods of the invention are not limited to the use of the techniques described in these references.

In another embodiment of the present invention, golf equipment and/or components associated with and/or a part of golf equipment comprise the polyurethane composition. Examples of golf equipment include, but are not limited to, golf clubs (i.e., putters, drivers, irons, and wedges) and club attachments, additions, or modifications, such as striking face inserts; golf club components (i.e., shafts, hosels, and grips); golf club vibration damping devices; golf gloves and portions thereof, such as glove liners, securing methods, patches, and reinforcements; golf shoes and associated components (i.e., soles, footbeds and spike socket spines, heel counters, toe "puffs," uppers, midsoles, outsoles, liners, and plastic golf spikes); golf bags and their associated framework, support legs, and stands; and any portion of the above items.

In one particular embodiment of the present invention, the cover comprises the polyurethane composition, polyurethane/polyurea blend, or polyurea and polyurethane ionomer compositions.

The term "about," as used herein in connection with one or more numbers or numerical ranges, should be understood to refer to all such numbers, including all numbers in a range.

As used herein, the term "polyurethane composition" refers to a combination of the reaction product of a prepolymer including at least one polyisocyanate and at least one polyol, and at least one curing agent, in addition to the color stabilizer component.

As used herein, the term "ATTI compression" is defined as the deflection of an object or material relative to the deflection of a calibrated spring, as measured with an Atti Compression Gauge, that is commercially available from Atti Engineering Corp. of Union City, NJ. ATTI compression is typically used to measure the compression of a golf ball. However, when referring to the compression of a core, it is preferred to use a compressive load measurement.

EXAMPLES

The following example is provided for illustrative purposes only and is not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner.

Example 1: Comparison of Conventional Polyurethane Golf Ball Covers Versus a Polyurethane Cover Produced According to the Invention.

Two identically-constructed golf balls were prepared, each including a liquid-filled center, a wound layer, and a polyurethane cover. The first golf ball (Formulation I¹), prepared according to the invention, has a cover layer formed of the polyurethane composition of the present invention including a reaction product of 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate ("MDI"), polytetramethylene ether glycol ("PTMEG"), a mixture of 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine and 3,5-dimethylthio-2,6-toluenediamine curatives (Ethacure 300), and UV stabilizers TINUVIN 571 and TINUVIN 765. The second golf ball ("Formulation II") has a cover layer formed of a polyurethane composition including a reaction product of 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate ("MDI"), polytetramethylene ether glycol ("PTMEG"), a mixture of 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine and 3,5-dimethylthio-2,6-toluenediamine curatives. The golf balls were prepared according to the golf ball formation methods described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,733,428 and 5,888,437, which are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference.

TABLE I: Formulations

Materials	Formulation I	Formulation II
MDI - PTMEG Prepolymer ¹	1 eq.	1 eq.
ETHACURE 300 ²	0.95 eq.	0.95 eq.
TINUVIN 571 ³	4.5 wt. %	-
TINUVIN 765 ⁴	0.1 wt. %	-
Color Dispersion ⁵	3.5 %	3.5 %

¹ an MDI-based PTMEG prepolymer at 6.0% NCO, manufactured by Polyurethane Specialties Corporation of Lyndhurst, NJ.

² Isomers of 3,5-dimethylthio-2,4-toluenediamine and 3,5-dimethylthio-2,6-toluenediamine curatives, manufactured by Albemarle Corporation.

³ 2-(2H-Benzotriazol-2-yl)-4-methyl-6-dodecylphenol.

⁴ bis (1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate, bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate.

⁵ A 57% pigment blend in polyether triol, manufactured by Harwick Chemical Manufacturing Corporation of Akron, OH.

The golf balls having covers formed of Formulations I and II, along with commercially available golf balls having conventional polyurethane covers, Callaway Red, Callaway Blue, and the Maxfli Revolution, were exposed to UV light, as described below. Three samples of each ball type were placed under a UV light ("QUV") manufactured by Q-PANEL of Cleveland, OH, and were exposed as described by ASTM-G53. Colorimeter measurements of the color of the various polyurethane covers were taken prior to exposure to UV radiation and at intervals of 1, 2, and 4 hours. One ball of each type was left unexposed to UV for use as a control. The QUV was initially set to the beginning of a UV-on cycle. The weatherometer was then set to cycle with the following conditions: air temperature of 60°C with the UV-340a lamps on, controlled at an irradiance power of 1.00 W/m²/nm. The golf balls were removed, as noted above, for observation and colorimeter measurement using a Macbeth 7000A Color-Eye, commercially available from GretagMacbeth of New Windsor, NY. The large, 1-inch port was used in specular and UV-included mode. The average of two D65/10° illuminant measurements reported for each ball below in Table 2.

TABLE 2: C* and L* Measurements

	Initial Color		1-hr QUV		2-hr QUV		4-hr QUV	
	C*	L*	C*	L*	C*	L*	C*	L*
Ball								
Formulation I	3.8	91.7	14.3	87.9	16.2	87.8	21.2	85.9
Callaway® Red	7.7	91.3	31.9	81.7	40.5	77.9	35.3	74.8
Formulation II	5.5	91.7	35.6	84.1	38.7	81.7	42.1	75.4
Maxfli® Revolution	10.7	92.4	38.1	83.5	34.1	85.1	42.4	79.5
Callaway® Blue	5.3	93.1	40.3	80.0	33.1	79.7	37.2	74.5

As discussed above, it is desirable to minimize C* values (less "yellowing") and maximize L* values (more white). Table 1 above clearly shows that the golf ball cover of the present invention, Formulation I, has the lowest measured C* values (initial and final) and the highest measured L* values (final) after exposure to UV radiation. These results indicate that the color of the Formulation I polyurethane composition is "whiter" (less yellow/brown) than conventional polyurethane cover compositions. The C* color differences, most responsible for the "yellowing" and/or "browning" of the polyurethane compositions, are shown graphically in Figure 1.

The difference between conventional polyurethane covers and the polyurethane cover of the present invention is presented in Table 3 below.

TABLE 3: Color Difference v. Formulation I

	Initial Color		1-hr QUV		2-hr QUV		4-hr QUV	
	C*	L*	ΔC*	ΔL*	ΔC*	ΔL*	ΔC*	ΔL*
Ball								
Callaway® Red	7.7	91.3	17.6	-6.2	24.3	-9.9	14.1	-11.1
Formulation II	5.5	91.7	21.3	-3.8	22.5	-6.1	20.9	-10.5
Maxfli® Revolution	10.7	92.4	23.8	-4.4	17.9	-2.7	21.2	-6.4
Callaway® Blue	5.3	93.1	26.0	-7.9	16.9	-8.1	16.0	-11.4

Also very important is the relative color when compared to the initial color of the ball. The data in Table 3 are the change in color, as measured at discrete time intervals, compared to the golf ball cover of the invention. Table 3 above clearly demonstrates that the color stabilization provided by the UV absorber and light stabilizer used in Formulation I resulted in surprising and unexpected improvement in color stabilization against UV light.

One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that it is not only important to have a polyurethane composition that remains similar to the initial color, but one that also had excellent initial color to begin with. The initial C* and L* values, shown in both Tables 2 and 3, demonstrate the improvement shown by the polyurethane cover of the present invention. Another important and desirable aspect in addition to good initial color is color stability as a function of time. One skilled in the art would be aware that a polyurethane composition that had good initial color but quickly darkened and yellowed upon exposure to UV light would be undesirable.

Table 4 below shows that Formulation I of the invention not only has excellent initial color (low C* and high L*), but that it also surprisingly and unexpectedly exhibits color change at a slower rate than other commercially-available polyurethane-covered golf balls.

TABLE 4: Change in Color v. Initial Color

Ball	Initial Color			1-hr QUV		2-hr QUV		4-hr QUV	
	C*	L*	ΔC^*	ΔL^*	ΔC^*	ΔL^*	ΔC^*	ΔL^*	ΔC^*
Formulation I	3.8	91.7	10.5	-3.8	12.4	-3.9	17.4	-5.8	
Callaway® Red	7.7	91.3	24.2	-9.6	32.8	-13.4	27.6	-16.5	
Maxfli® Revolution	10.7	92.4	27.4	-8.9	23.4	-7.3	31.7	-12.9	
Formulation II	5.5	90.3	30.1	-6.2	33.2	-8.6	36.6	-14.9	
Callaway® Blue	5.3	93.1	35.0	-13.1	27.8	-13.4	31.9	-18.6	

Figure 2 graphically depicts the change in C* color, ΔC^* , measured at three time intervals, for Formulation I (the present invention), Formulation II (containing no color stabilizing package), and for three other commercially-available polyurethane-covered golf balls.

A third cover formulation was made and comprises PMS 1088 (MDI/PTMEG 2000 based prepolymer) cured with ETHACURE 300 + 3.5% HCC-19584 (white dispersion) + 6.0% Glisorb UV-1(UV absorber)+0.1% Tinuvin 765(HALS) ("Formulation 3").

The QUV was performed per ASTM G 154-00a with the same conditions, sample holders and sample preparation as above. The color was measured as described above except that a 1/2-inch diameter port was used. UV light was included as above, however the specular component was excluded. The ASTM E 313-73 (D 1925) Yellow Index is reported below. The L*, a*, b*, and ΔE^* values reported below are from the CIELAB system. One of ordinary skill in the art would be aware that CIELAB is a different color system and does not contain the chromaticity (C*) and hue (H*) values present in the CIElCh system. In the CIELAB system, the color component is separated into +b* and -b* (yellow and blue, respectively) and +a* and -a* (red and green, respectively).

The various CIELAB color system values were measured for a variety of golf balls and are presented in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: Initial Color Values

Ball	Initial		
	Y _i	L*	a*
Formulation 3	1.9	90.0	-3.3
Formulation 1	3.9	90.3	-4.0
Maxfli Revolution	25.5	92.0	1.1
Callaway Red	18.6	90.2	-1.6
Callaway Blue	12.5	95.3	-1.8
Formulation 2	1.1	90.0	3.0

ΔE^* is the total color change
 $\Delta E^* = \text{the square root of: } \Delta L^*{}^2 + \Delta a^*{}^2 + \Delta b^*{}^2$

The CIELAB color system values were then measured at different time intervals and compared to their original values. These data are presented below in Table 6.

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A golf ball comprising a center, a cover, and, optionally, at least one intermediate layer disposed between the center and the cover, wherein the cover is formed from a polyurethane composition, or a reaction product thereof, comprising:
at least one polyol;
at least one polyisocyanate;
at least one curing agent; and
at least one color stabilizer;
wherein the color stabilizer is present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.
2. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the cover has at least one of a material hardness of less than about 80 Shore D, a flexural modulus of less than about 100,000 psi, a dimple coverage of greater than about 60% and an ATTI compression of less than about 120.
3. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the cover has at least one of a material hardness of less than about 70 Shore D, a flexural modulus of less than about 75,000 psi, a dimple coverage of greater than about 65% and an ATTI compression of less than about 100.
4. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the cover has at least one of a material hardness of less than about 60 Shore D, a flexural modulus of less than about 60,000 psi, a dimple coverage of greater than about 70% and an ATTI compression of less than about 90.
5. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the color stabilizer comprises UV absorbers, radical scavengers, hindered amine light stabilizers, thermal stabilizers, antioxidants, quenchers, hydroperoxide decomposers, fillers, and combinations thereof.

TABLE 6: Color Values Change as a Function of Time

	1-hr QUV			2-hr QUV			4-hr QUV		
	ΔE^*	ΔL^*	Δa^*	ΔE^*	ΔL^*	Δa^*	ΔE^*	ΔL^*	Δa^*
WH 3	24.3	-1.3	14.2	14.6	32.0	-4.3	-1.2	18.6	19.2
WH 1	24.8	-3.3	-0.6	14.2	14.7	31.1	-4.6	-0.3	17.9
WH	51.9	-9.5	0.9	34.8	36.1	54.0	-12.2	3.6	36.4
Widen	45.9	-10.1	2.3	26.9	28.8	57.2	-11.9	6.6	32.1
WV	49.3	-10.7	2.2	26.0	31.9	60.3	-13.8	5.2	30.5
WH 2	69.3	-13.4	4.8	38.4	40.0	79.1	-17.6	8.3	41.5

The invention described and claimed herein is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments herein disclosed, since these embodiments are intended solely as illustrations of several aspects of the invention. Any equivalent embodiments are intended to be within the scope of this invention. Indeed, various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art from the foregoing description. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 graphically shows the C^* color differences, most responsible for the "yellowing" and/or "browning" of the polyurethane compositions.

Figure 2 graphically depicts the change in C^* color, ΔC^* , measured at three time intervals, for Formulation I (the present invention), Formulation II (containing no color stabilizing package), and for three other commercially-available polyurethane-covered golf balls.

6. The golf ball of claim 5, wherein the color stabilizer comprises a UV absorber, a light stabilizer, or a combination thereof.

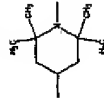
7. The golf ball of claim 6, wherein the UV absorber comprises triazines, enoxazinones, benzotriazoles, benzophenones, benzoxates, formamides, iminates/propanoates, aromatic propanediones, benzimidazoles, cycloaliphatic ketones, ormanilides, cyanoacrylates, benzopyranones, and mixtures thereof.

8. The golf ball of claim 6, wherein the UV absorber is present in an amount between about 0.1 weight percent and about 6.0 weight percent.

9. The golf ball of claim 8, wherein the UV absorber is present in an amount between about 1.0 weight % to about 5.0 weight %.

10. The golf ball of claim 9, wherein the UV absorber is present in an amount between about 3.0 weight % and about 5.0 weight %.

11. The golf ball of claim 6, wherein the light stabilizer comprises bis-(substituted) eteropolycyclodione; N,N'-1,6-hexanedylbis (N-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl)-ornamide); dimethyl succinate polymer with 4-hydroxy-2,2,6,6-tetra-methyl-1-piperidine thanol; bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate; hindered amine; 3-dodecyl-1-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidyl-pyrrolidin-2,5-dione; poly-methylpropyl-3-oxy-4(2,2,6,6-aramethyl) piperidinyl] siroxane; bis-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl)-sebacate; bis-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl-sebacate; bis-(1-octyloxy-2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate; n-butyl-(3,5-di-4-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) bis-(1,2,2,6-pentamethyl-4-piperidinyl) malonate; bis-(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-4-piperidinyl) sebacate; compounds containing at least one of the following structure:



and mixtures thereof.

12. The golf ball of claim 11, wherein the light stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.01 weight % and about 3 weight %.

13. The golf ball of claim 12, wherein the light stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.05 weight % and about 2 weight %.

14. The golf ball of claim 13, wherein the light stabilizer is present in an amount between about 0.1 weight % and about 1.0 weight %.

15. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyisocyanate comprises 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate; polymeric 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate; carbodiimide-modified liquid 4,4'-diphenylmethane diisocyanate; 4,4'-dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate; *p*-phenylene diisocyanate; toluene diisocyanate; 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenylene diisocyanate; isophoronedisocyanate; hexamethylene diisocyanate; naphthalene diisocyanate; xylene diisocyanate; *p*-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate; *m*-tetramethylxylene diisocyanate; ethylene diisocyanate; propylene-1,2- diisocyanate; tetramethylene-1,4-diisocyanate; cyclohexyl diisocyanate; 1,6-hexamethylene-diisocyanate; dodecane-1,12-diisocyanate; cyclobutane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,3-diisocyanate; cyclohexane-1,4- diisocyanate; 1-isocyanato-3,3,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane; methyl cyclohexylene diisocyanate; isocyanurate of methyl cyclohexylene diisocyanate; isocyanurate of 2,4,4-trimethyl-1,6-hexane diisocyanate; tetracene diisocyanate; naphthalene diisocyanate; anthracene diisocyanate; and mixtures thereof.

16. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the curing agent comprises a polyamine or a polyol.

17. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the curing agent comprises at least one aromatic polyamine.

18. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has an initial C* value of less than about 5 and an L* value of greater than about 87.

19. The golf ball of claim 18, wherein the polyurethane composition has an initial C^* value of less than about 4 and an L^* value of greater than about 87.
20. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 20 and an L^* value of greater than about 86 after exposure to UV light for 1 hour.
21. The golf ball of claim 20, wherein the polyurethane composition has a C^* value less than about 15 and an L^* value of greater than about 86 after exposure to UV light for 1 hour.
22. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 25 and an L^* value of greater than about 85 after exposure to UV light for 2 hours.
23. The golf ball of claim 22, wherein the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 20 and an L^* value of greater than about 85 after exposure to UV light for 2 hours.
24. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 25 and an L^* value of greater than about 83 after exposure to UV light for 4 hours.
25. The golf ball of claim 24, wherein the polyurethane composition has a C^* value of less than about 23 and an L^* value of greater than about 83 after exposure to UV light for 4 hours.
26. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -4 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 22.0 after exposure to UV light for about 1 hour.
27. The golf ball of claim 26, wherein ΔC^* is less than about 15.

28. The golf ball of claim 27, wherein ΔC^* is less than about 12.
29. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -4 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 22 after exposure to UV light for about 2 hours.
30. The golf ball of claim 29, wherein ΔC^* is less than about 15.
31. The golf ball of claim 30, wherein ΔC^* is less than about 13.
32. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the polyurethane composition has a ΔL^* value of greater than about -7 and an ΔC^* value of less than about 26 after exposure to UV light for about 4 hours.
33. The golf ball of claim 32, wherein ΔC^* is less than about 18.
34. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the cover comprises at least an inner cover layer and an outer cover layer comprising the polyurethane composition that is disposed about the inner cover layer.
35. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the cover is at least about 0.02 inches thick, the cover has a material hardness of less than about 80 Shore D, or both.
36. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein a paint layer that is substantially free of UV absorber and light stabilizer is disposed about the cover.
37. The golf ball of claim 1, wherein the at least one UV absorber and the at least one light stabilizer have a ratio of about 1:1 to about 100:1.

URETHANE ELASTOMERS WITH
IMPROVED COLOR STABILITY

ABSTRACT

A golf ball including a center, a cover, and, optionally, at least one intermediate layer disposed between the center and the cover, wherein the cover is formed from a polyurethane composition, or a reaction product thereof, including at least one polyol; at least one polyisocyanate; at least one curing agent; and at least one color stabilizer; wherein the color stabilizer is present in an amount sufficient to provide a ΔC^* of less than about 22 upon exposure to UV light over a timeframe of 1 hour.

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特許請求の範囲

【請求項1】 センター、カバ、及び任意に、センタ

ーとカバの間に配置された少なくとも一つの中間層を

含むゴルフボールであって、該カバが以下を含むポリ

ウレタン組成物、又はその反応性生成物から形成されて

おり、少なくとも一つのポリオール；少なくとも一つの

ポリイソシアナート；少なくとも一つの硬化剤；及び少

なくとも一つの色安定剤；ここで、該色安定剤が1時間

のタイムフレームにわたってUV光を照射した場合に約

22より小さいΔC*を生じるのに十分な量で存在す

る、ゴルフボール。

【請求項2】 約80ショアD硬度より小さい材料硬

度、約6.89、5MPa(1,000,000psi)より小さい曲

げモジュラス、約60%より大きいディンプルカバレ

ッジ及び約120より小さいATTI圧縮の少なくとも

一つをカバが有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項3】 約70ショアD硬度より小さい材料硬

度、約5.17、1MPa(75,000psi)より小さい曲

げモジュラス、約6.5%より大きいディンプルカバレ

ッジ及び約10より小さいATTI圧縮の少なくとも

一つをカバが有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項4】 約60ショアD硬度より小さい材料硬

度、約4.13、7MPa(60,000psi)より小さい曲

げモジュラス、約70%より大きいディンプルカバレ

ッジ及び約90より小さいATTI圧縮の少なくとも

一つをカバが有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項5】 色安定剤がUV吸収剤、ラジカル補足

剤、立体的骨格のあるアミン光安定剤、熱安定剤、抗酸化

剤、消光剤、ヒドロペルオキシド分解剤、充塞剤、及び

これらの組み合わせを含む、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項6】 色安定剤がUV吸収剤、光安定剤、又は

これらの組み合わせを含む、請求項5に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項7】 UV吸収剤がトリアジン、ペンタキナジ

ノン、ペンゾトリアゾール、ペンゾフェノン、ペンゾエ

ート、ホルムアミジン、シナメート/プロペノエー

ト、芳香族プロパノール、ペンズイミダゾール、脂環

式タトロン、ホルムアミド、シアノアクリレート、ベン

ジピラノン、及びこれらの混合物を含む、請求項6に記

載のゴルフボール。

【請求項8】 UV吸収剤が約0.1質量%〜約6.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項6に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項9】 UV吸収剤が約1.0質量%〜約5.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項8に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項10】 UV吸収剤が約3.0質量%〜約5.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項9に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項11】 UV吸収剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項11に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項12】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項12に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項13】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項13に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項14】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項14に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項15】 ポリイソシアナートが、4,4'-ジ

フェニルメタンジイソシアナート；ポリマー4,4'-ジ

フェニルメタンジイソシアナート；カルボジイミド

変性遊4,4'-ジフェニルメタンジイソシアナ

ート；4,4'-ジシクロヘキシルメタンジイソシア

ナート；p-フェニレンジイソシアナート；トルエンジ

シアナート；3,3'-ジメチル-4,4'-ジフェニレ

ンジイソシアナート；イソホロンジイソシアナート；

ヘキサメチレンジイソシアナート；ナフタレンジイソ

シアナート；キシレンジイソシアナート；p-チトラメチ

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キシレンジイソシアナート；m-チトラメチルキシレ

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【請求項16】 センター、カバ、及び任意に、センタ

ーとカバの間に配置された少なくとも一つの中間層を

含むゴルフボールであって、該カバが以下を含むポリ

ウレタン組成物、又はその反応性生成物から形成されて

おり、少なくとも一つのポリオール；少なくとも一つの

ポリイソシアナート；少なくとも一つの硬化剤；及び少

なくとも一つの色安定剤；ここで、該色安定剤が1時間

のタイムフレームにわたってUV光を照射した場合に約

22より小さいΔC*を生じるのに十分な量で存在す

る、ゴルフボール。

【請求項17】 約80ショアD硬度より小さい材料硬

度、約6.89、5MPa(1,000,000psi)より小さい曲

げモジュラス、約60%より大きいディンプルカバレ

ッジ及び約120より小さいATTI圧縮の少なくとも

一つをカバが有する、請求項16に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項18】 約70ショアD硬度より小さい材料硬

度、約5.17、1MPa(75,000psi)より小さい曲

げモジュラス、約6.5%より大きいディンプルカバレ

ッジ及び約10より小さいATTI圧縮の少なくとも

一つをカバが有する、請求項16に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項19】 約60ショアD硬度より小さい材料硬

度、約4.13、7MPa(60,000psi)より小さい曲

げモジュラス、約70%より大きいディンプルカバレ

ッジ及び約90より小さいATTI圧縮の少なくとも

一つをカバが有する、請求項16に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項20】 色安定剤がUV吸収剤、ラジカル補足

剤、立体的骨格のあるアミン光安定剤、熱安定剤、抗酸化

剤、消光剤、ヒドロペルオキシド分解剤、充塞剤、及び

これらの組み合わせを含む、請求項16に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項21】 色安定剤がUV吸収剤、光安定剤、又は

これらの組み合わせを含む、請求項20に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項22】 UV吸収剤がトリアジン、ペンタキナジ

ノン、ペンゾトリアゾール、ペンゾフェノン、ペンゾエ

ート、ホルムアミジン、シナメート/プロペノエー

ト、芳香族プロパノール、ペンズイミダゾール、脂環

式タトロン、ホルムアミド、シアノアクリレート、ベン

ジピラノン、及びこれらの混合物を含む、請求項21に記

載のゴルフボール。

【請求項23】 UV吸収剤が約0.1質量%〜約6.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項21に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項24】 UV吸収剤が約1.0質量%〜約5.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項23に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項25】 UV吸収剤が約3.0質量%〜約5.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項24に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項26】 UV吸収剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項25に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項27】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項26に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項28】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項27に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項29】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項28に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項30】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項29に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項31】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項30に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項32】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項31に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項33】 ポリイソシアナートが、4,4'-ジ

フェニルメタンジイソシアナート；ポリマー4,4'-ジ

フェニルメタンジイソシアナート；カルボジイミド

変性遊4,4'-ジフェニルメタンジイソシア

ナート；4,4'-ジシクロヘキシルメタンジイソシア

ナート；p-フェニレンジイソシアナート；トルエンジ

シアナート；3,3'-ジメチル-4,4'-ジフェニレ

ンジイソシアナート；イソホロンジイソシアナート；

ヘキサメチレンジイソシアナート；ナフタレンジイソ

シアナート；キシレンジイソシアナート；p-チトラメチ

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キシレンジイソシアナート；m-チトラメチルキシレ

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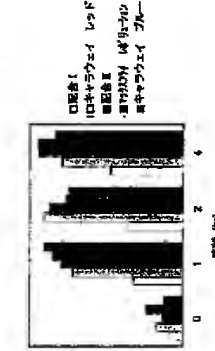
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常用のポリウレタンのC*値に対する割合100%



【請求項34】 色安定剤がUV吸収剤、光安定剤、又は

これらの組み合わせを含む、請求項33に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項35】 UV吸収剤がトリアジン、ペンタキナジ

ノン、ペンゾトリアゾール、ペンゾフェノン、ペンゾエ

ート、ホルムアミジン、シナメート/プロペノエー

ト、芳香族プロパノール、ペンズイミダゾール、脂環

式タトロン、ホルムアミド、シアノアクリレート、ベン

ジピラノン、及びこれらの混合物を含む、請求項34に記

載のゴルフボール。

【請求項36】 UV吸収剤が約0.1質量%〜約6.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項34に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項37】 UV吸収剤が約1.0質量%〜約5.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項36に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項38】 UV吸収剤が約3.0質量%〜約5.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項37に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項39】 UV吸収剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項38に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項40】 UV吸収剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項39に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項41】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項40に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項42】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項41に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項43】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項42に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項44】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項43に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項45】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項44に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項46】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項45に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項47】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項46に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項48】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項47に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項49】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項48に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項50】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

質量%の量で存在する、請求項49に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項51】 光安定剤が約0.01質量%〜約3質

量%の量で存在する、請求項50に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項52】 光安定剤が約0.05質量%〜約2質

量%の量で存在する、請求項51に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項53】 光安定剤が約0.1質量%〜約1.0

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ンアナーター；エチレンジイソシアナート；プロピ

ン1、2-ジイソシアナート；テトラメチレン-

ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキシレンジイソシア

ン1、6-ヘキサメチレンジイソシアナート；

ン1、12-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキサ-

ン3-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキサ-

ン1, 3-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキサ-

ン1, 4-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキサ-

ン1, 3, 5-トリメチレンジイソシアナート；メチ

ルヘキシレンジイソシアナート；メチルシクロ

ヘキシレンジイソシアナートのイソシアヌレート；2、

トリメチレン1, 6-ヘキサレンジイソシアナ-

ン1, 3-ジイソシアナート；テトラメチレンジイソシア

ン1, 2-ジイソシアナート；アントラセンジイソシア

ン1；及びこれらの混合物を含む、請求項1に記載の

ポリオール。

【請求項16】 硬化剤がポリアミン又はポリオールを

含む、請求項1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項17】 硬化剤が少なくとも一つの芳香族ポリ

オールを含む、請求項1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項18】 ポリウレタン組成物が約5より小さい

値及び約8より大きい値を有する、請求項

1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項19】 ポリウレタン組成物が約4より小さい

値及び約7より大きい値を有する、請求項

1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項20】 1時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレタ

ン組成物が約20より小さいC*値及び約80より大き

く値を有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項21】 1時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレタ

ン組成物が約15より小さいC*値及び約80より大き

く値を有する、請求項20に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項22】 2時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレタ

ン組成物が約25より小さいC*値及び約85より大き

く値を有する、請求項21に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項23】 2時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレタ

ン組成物が約20より小さいC*値及び約85より大き

く値を有する、請求項22に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項24】 4時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレタ

ン組成物が約25より小さいC*値及び約83より大き

く値を有する、請求項23に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項25】 4時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレタ

ン組成物が約23より小さいC*値及び約83より大き

く値を有する、請求項24に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項26】 約1時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレ

タ組成物が約-4より大きいΔL*値及び約22、0

より小さいΔC*値を有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフ

ボール。

【請求項27】 ΔC*が約15より小さい、請求項2

1に記載のゴルフボール。

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【請求項28】 ΔC*が約12より小さい、請求項2

1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項29】 約2時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレ

タ組成物が約-4より大きいΔL*値及び約22より

小さいΔC*値を有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ-

ール。

【請求項30】 ΔC*が約15より小さい、請求項2

1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項31】 ΔC*が約13より小さい、請求項3

0に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項32】 約4時間UV光に曝した後でポリウレ

タ組成物が約-7より大きいΔL*値及び約26より

小さいΔC*値を有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ-

ール。

【請求項33】 ΔC*が約18より小さい、請求項3

2に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項34】 少なくとも一つの内部カバー層と内部

カバー層の間に配置されポリウレタン組成物を含む外

部カバー層を含む、請求項1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項35】 カバーの厚さが少なくとも約0、05

08cm (0、02インチ)であるか、カバーが約80シ

ョード硬度より小さい材料硬度を有するか、又は両者

を有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項36】 UV吸収剤及び光吸収剤を實質的に含

まない塗装層がカバーの間に配置されている、請求項

1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項37】 少なくとも一つのUV吸収剤と少なく

とも一つの光安定剤が約1：1〜約100：1の比率を

有する、請求項1に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項38】 少なくとも一つのUV吸収剤と少なく

とも一つの光安定剤が約7：1〜約70：1の比率を有

する、請求項37に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項39】 少なくとも一つのUV吸収剤と少なく

とも一つの光安定剤が約30：1〜約50：1の比率を

有する、請求項38に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項40】 ポリイソシアナートがm-フェニレン

ジイソシアナートを含む、請求項1に記載のゴルフボ-

ール。

【請求項41】 UV吸収剤が約0、1質量%-約1

0、0質量%の量で存在する、請求項6に記載のゴルフ

ボール。

【請求項42】 UV吸収剤が約1、0質量%-約7、

0質量%の量で存在する、請求項41に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項43】 UV吸収剤が約3、0質量%-約7、

0質量%の量で存在する、請求項42に記載のゴルフボ

ール。

【請求項44】 センター、カバー、及びセンターとカ

バーの間に配置された少なくとも一つの中間層を含むゴ

ルフボールであって、該カバーが、1時間のタイムフラ

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ームにわたってUV光に曝した場合に約22より小さい

ΔC*を生じるのに十分な量で存在する少なくとも一つ

のUV吸収剤及び少なくとも一つの光安定剤を含むポリ

ウレタン組成物、又はその反応性生成物から形成されて

いるゴルフボール。

【請求項45】 センター、カバー、及びセンターとカ

バーの間に配置された少なくとも一つの中間層を含むゴ

ルフボールであって、該カバーが以下を含むポリウレタ

ン組成物、又はその反応性生成物から形成されてあり、

少なくとも一つの反応性生成物及び少なくとも一つ

のポリオールを含むブレポリマー。

【請求項46】 少なくとも一つのUV吸収剤；及び少なくとも

一つの光安定剤；ここで、該少なくとも一つのUV吸収

剤及び光安定剤が1時間のタイムフラームにわたってU

V光を照射した場合に約22より小さいΔC*を生じる

のに十分な量で存在する、ゴルフボール。

【請求項46】 ポリイソシアナートが、4、4'-ジ

フェニルメタンジイソシアナート；ポリマー4、4'-

ジフェニルメタンジイソシアナート；カルボジイミド-

変性炭酸4、4'-ジフェニルメタンジイソシアナ-

ート；4、4'-ジジシクロヘキシレンジイソシアナ-

ート；p-フェニレンジイソシアナート；トルエンジイソ

シアナート；3、3'-ジメチル-4、4'-ビフェニル

キサメチレンジイソシアナート；ナフタレンジイソシア

ナート；キシレンジイソシアナート；p-チトラメチル

キシレンジイソシアナート；m-チトラメチルキシレン

ジイソシアナート；エチレンジイソシアナート；プロピ

レン-1, 2-ジイソシアナート；テトラメチレン-

1, 4-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキシレンジイソシア

ナート；1, 5-ヘキサメチレンジイソシアナート；

ドデカン-1, 12-ジイソシアナート；シクロブタン

-1, 3-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキサ-1, 3

-ジイソシアナート；シクロヘキサ-1, 4-ジイソ

シアナート；1-イソシアナート-3, 3, 5-トリメ

チル-5-イソシアナート；メチルシクロヘキサ-1, 4-ジ

フェニレンジイソシアナート；メチルシクロヘキシレン

ジイソシアナート；メチルシクロヘキシレンジイソシア

ナートのイソシアヌレート；2, 4, 4-トリメチル-

1, 6-ヘキサレンジイソシアナートのイソシアヌレ

ート；テトラメチレンジイソシアナート；ナフタレンジイソシ

アナート；アントラセンジイソシアナート；及びこれら

の混合物を含む、請求項43に記載のゴルフボール。

【請求項47】 以下を含むゴルフ用品形成用組成物：

少なくとも一つのポリイソシアナートの反応性生成物

のポリオールを含むブレポリマーの反応性生成物

少なくとも一つのポリアミンを含む硬化剤；少なくとも

一つのUV吸収剤；及び少なくとも一つの光安定剤；こ

こで、該少なくとも一つのUV吸収剤及び光安定剤が1

時間のタイムフラームにわたってUV光を照射した場合

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に約22より小さいΔC*を生じるのに十分な量で存在

する。

【請求項48】 以下の工程を含むゴルフボールの着色

剤を阻止又は防止する方法：ゴルフボールコアを用意す

る工程；コアの周りにカバーを形成する工程、

ここで、該カバーは、少なくとも一つのポリオール、少

なくとも一つのポリイソシアナート、少なくとも一つの

硬化剤、及び1時間のタイムフラームにわたってUV光

を照射した場合に約22より小さいΔC*を生じるのに

十分な量で存在する光安定剤を含むポリウレタン組成

物、又はその反応性生成物から形成される。

【請求項49】 以下の工程を含むゴルフボールの着色安

定性を改善する方法：安定化されたポリウレタン組成物か

ら製造した最外層のカバーを有するゴルフボールを用意

する工程；少なくとも1時間UV光に最外層を曝す工

程；及び最外層カバーのC*値及びL*値を測定する工

程。

【請求項49】 以下の工程を含むゴルフボールの着色安

定性を改善する方法：安定化されたポリウレタン組成物か

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ら製造した最外層のカバーを有するゴルフボールを用意

する工程；少なくとも1時間UV光に最外層を曝す工

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程。

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ら製造した最外層のカバーを有するゴルフボールを用意

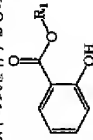
する工程；少なくとも1時間UV光に最外層を曝す工

程；及び最外層カバーのC*値及びL*値を測定する工

程。

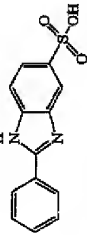
24

サリチレートは以下の式を有するものを含む：



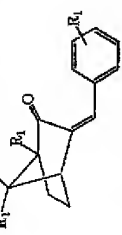
R1はアルコキシ；及びR1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

10



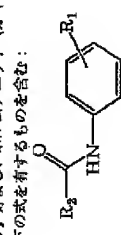
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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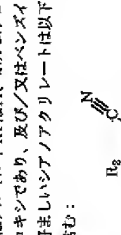
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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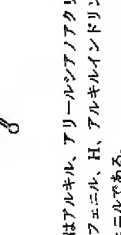
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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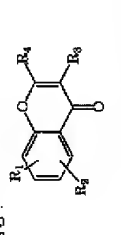
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

10



R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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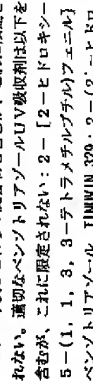
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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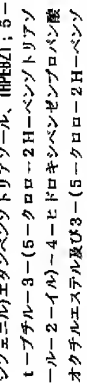
25

ルセチン；及びこれらの混合物を含むが、これに限定されない。適切なベンゾトリアゾールUV吸収剤は以下の式を有するものを含む：



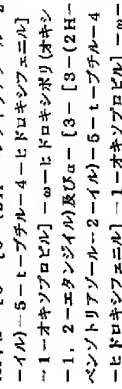
R1はアルコキシ；及びR1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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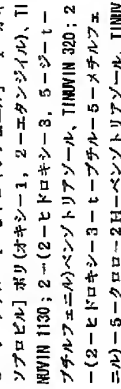
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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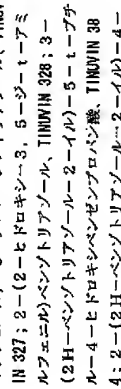
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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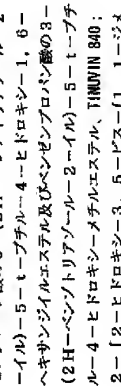
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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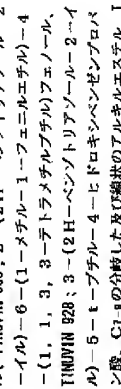
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

10



R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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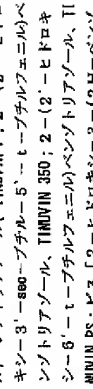
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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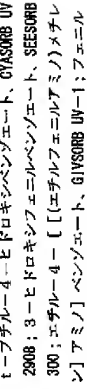
26

ルセチン；及びこれらの混合物を含むが、これに限定されない。適切なベンゾトリアゾールUV吸収剤は以下の式を有するものを含む：



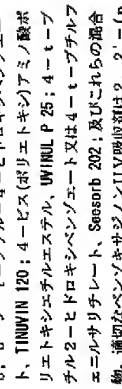
R1はアルコキシ；及びR1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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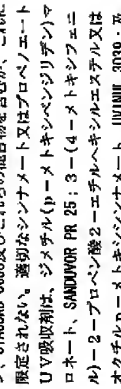
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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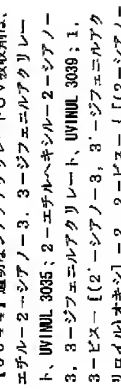
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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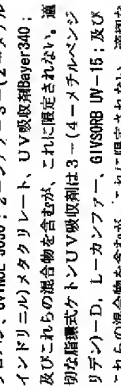
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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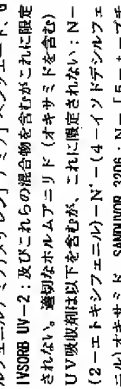
R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

10



R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

10

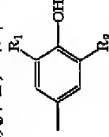
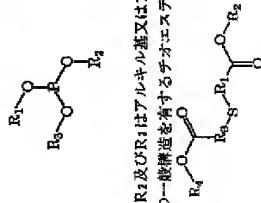


R1はアルキルである。好ましくは、R1はベンジルである。好ましいものは、R1はベンズイルである。

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シブエニル)プロピオネート; 1, 3, 3-トリ
メチル-4'-ヒドロキシベンゼン⁵-1-エーテル
-ブタン; 2, 2'-メチレンビス(6-
チルメチルヘキシル)-para-クレール;
-ジメチル-6-(1'-メチルシクロヘキシル)
ノール; N'-ヘキサメチレンジス-(3, 5
-チル-4'-ヒドロキシ-ベンジン-4-
; オクタデシル-3, 5-ジ-1-エーテル-4-
キシビンジリナメート; N-フェニルペン
; 2, 4, 4'-トリメチルペンチンの反応生成
これらの混合物。

 R_1 及び R_2 は α -ブチル基、アルキル基、又はオ
ルキレンであり；以下の一般構造を有するホスフ
：

R_1 、 R_2 及び R_3 はアルキル基又はフェニル基で、以下の一般構造を有するチオエステル：

2. R_3 及び R_4 はアルキル基であり; 及びこれら物を含む。

[illegible]

化合物を含むが、これに限定されない。少なくとも一つ一つのUV安定剤を、約0.1質量%〜約6.0質量%、最も好ましくは約1.0質量%〜約5.0質量%、最も好ましくは約3.0質量%〜約5.0質量%存在させる必要がある。HASIが存在する場合は、約0.01質量%〜約3.0質量%、より好ましくは約0.05質量%〜約2.0質量%、最も好ましくは約0.1質量%〜約1.0質量%の量で存在する。好ましくは、色安定剤かつケージは少なくとも一つ一つのUV吸収剤と少なくとも一つ一つのHALSを含む。好ましくは、UV吸収剤のHALSに対する比率は、約1:1〜約100:1、より好ましくは約7:1〜約70:1、最も好ましくは約30:1〜約60:1である。

【0058】他の態様では、色変光膜パッケージは少なくとも一つのHALSを含む。好ましくは、UV吸収剤と少なくとも一つのHALSを有する。好ましくは、UV吸収剤のHALSに対する比率は約1：1〜約50：1、より好ましくは約7：1〜約50：1、最も好ましくは約30：1〜約50：1である。明部（それぞれ白と黒）に感度変化を有する材料及び色に依存する媒体から成る人の視覚系は該学術モデルを使用してシュミレートできることが、本分野の当業者には周知である。既存の全てのモデルでは色分光計（又は色板）から得ることができ、これらの材料を電気光学スペクトル領域を終端しており、これらの装置は電磁気スペクトルのうちヒトに見えうる範囲（約400-740 nm）の範囲についている。

【0059】CIELCh及びCIE LAB系は、対称の有用な“色”を記述するために及び外域の分野において周知の標準的な色系である。参照と試験試料との間の色の相違をCIELCh又はCIE LAB値によって容易に表現することができる。この値は相違と色の相違の方向の両方を示す。本発明のポリウレタン組成物の“色”を、円筒状の極座標系において三つのパラメータに分解する。CIELChスケールは試験料の相違を測定するのに使用できる。CIELChスケールは試験料の“色”を、円筒状の極座標系において三つのパラメータに分解する。CIE LAB系においては、Lは材料の明度及び明度、(黒及び白)成分を決定する。例えばL値100は純白、又は全波長での完全な反材であり、一方、L値0は純黒、又は光の全波長の吸収であり、しかしながらC*は、クロマ(彩度)の測定値であり、色空間の中心(L*軸)からのベクター距離であり、色相(H*)は第三のパラメーターで、0°〜360°の範囲の角度として表され、ここで、0°=赤、90°=黄、180°=緑、270°=青である。

【0060】通常の使用の間にUV光への暴露によって、塗装していないゴムアパカバが劣化するに伴い、L*値が減少し（暗くなり）かつC*値が増加することとなり、色調は90°近く（すなわち黄色）に止まるとされた。色調は90°近く（すなわち黄色）に止まる傾向にあり、かつわずかに高くドリフトして緑色を帯

びた黄色に又は低くドリフトして赤みを帯びた黄色になる。これは、影度 G^* の増加より増大した微細で鋭重な微線できる変化が小さい。 G^* の増大が、黄質に色鮮明な 90° に沿って移動するので、この場合は、 G^* 度が大きくなるより黄色しくなると考えられる。従って、本実験の目的のためには、例えは、遮蓋していない、か、ペーパーの初期 G^* 値を最小化し（黄色を少なくし）、かつ UV 照射に曝することによる時間経過に對する G^* の増加、 G^* の増加率又は好ましくは両者を阻止又は防止する、ことが望ましい。初期 G^* 値を最小化し（白に例へて）、かつ UV 又はゴルフボールの光線に同様に不利な作用を及ぼす他の照射に曝することによって生じる、時間経過に從つて黄質に或る減少を阻止又は防止すること、も望ましい。

【0061】好ましくは、本発明のポリウレタン組成物には、約5より小さい初期C*値及び約8より大きいC*値、好ましくは約4より小さい初期C*値及び約7より大きいC*値を有することが必要である。1時間QUVに曝した後、本発明のポリウレタン組成物は、好ましくは約2より小さいC*値及び約8より大きいC*値、好ましくは約1より小さいC*値及び約8より大きいC*値を有している必要がある。QUVは5より大きいC*値を有している必要があり、クリーピングランド、オハナイオのPeneが製造しており、ゴンゾールを基質にUV照射に曝すときと当業者が認識するに等しいに等しいの。QUV及びUV灯をASTM-655 (現ASTM-G164) の記載に従って操作する。QUVに2時間曝した後、本発明のポリウレタン組成物は好ましくは、約2.5より小さいC*値及び約8より大きいC*値を有し、好ましくは約2より小さいC*値及び約8より大きいC*値を有する必要がある。QUVに4時間曝した後、本発明のポリウレタン組成物は好ましくは、約2.5より小さいC*値及び約8より大きいC*値を有し、好ましくは約2.3より小さいC*値及び約8より大きいC*値を有する必要がある。

【0062】本発明のポリウレタン組成物のC*及びΔIに値による変化、QUVに1時間曝した後、本発明のポリウレタン組成物は好ましくは、約4より大きいΔI*値及び約2より小さいQUV、より好ましくは約1.5より小さいQUV、最も好ましくは約1.3より小さいΔI*値を有する。QUVに2時間曝した後、本発明のポリウレタン組成物は好ましくは、約4より大きいΔI*値及び約2.2より小さいQUV、より好ましくは約1.5より小さいQUV、最も好ましくは約1.3より小さいΔI*値を有する。

Yに4時間曝した後、本発明のポリウレタン組成物は好ましくは、約7より大きい ΔE 値及び約26より小さい、より好ましくは約20より小さい、最も好ましくは約18より小さい ΔC 値を有する。一つの態様では、本発明は、 ΔE 、内部カバレッジ、及び外部カバレッジ

も直径4.2、670mm(1.680インチ)である。本朝のゴルフボールの好ましい直径は、約670mm(約4.260インチ)である。よりまし直径は、約680mm(約4.270インチ)である。最もまし直径は、約690mm(約4.290インチ)である。最も好ましい直径は、約700mm(約4.330インチ)である。

【70】本発明のゴルフボールのコア及び内部カバ

カバール層を、当業者が利用可能な任意の厚さの、剛性な射出成形又は圧縮成形により、製造することができ、射出成形又は圧縮成形のために（好ましくは 4.127 ± 0.051 インチ（ 0.105 インチ）より薄い）、カバール層がゴルフボールに適用するのと同様の分厚の分厚のゴルフボールの常用の射出成形又は圧縮成形技術を使用する。本発明のボールの外層カバールを製造することは、これらの常用のボール成形方法を、図形に類似したものであるこれらの薄い外層カバール層に容易に適用することができる。従って、本発明によって、形態を可能にするキャスティング可能な反応性材料である、ゴルフボールに当業者の薄い外層カバール層を施すことが可能になることがあった。特に、反応性材料に類似するウレタンエラストマーを形成するキャスティング可能な反応性液体状物質が、所望の、非常に薄いカバール層を提供することが見出された。

[illegible]

体としての均一性及び回転軸作の改良が達成できる。金型
へブに導入するコアの硬化性ウレタン混合物の適切な
粘度範囲は、典型的には2 Pa・s～約30 Pa・s (約2,
000 cP～約30,000 cP)、好ましい範囲は約8 Pa
・s～約15 Pa・s (約8,000 cP～約15,000 cP)
である。

【0072】カバの製造を開始する場合、典型的には融合ヘッドを含むモーター付きのミキサーに、計量した量の硬化剤及びプレポリマーをラインを通じて供給した量の硬化剤及びプレポリマーと硬化剤の混合を行うことができる。それぞれの量の穴に移動するピンを使用し、上部の前もって加熱の穴に充填し、設備成分に置くことができる。約50〜約80秒間、反応材料を上部の金型ハープに置いた後、固化している反応融合物中に制御した速度でコアを低下させることができ、その中、同様の融合を有する下部の金型ハープ又は一連の下部金型ハープをキャピティに導入することが、好ましい場合では、ジオールと第2アミンを硬化剤として使用する場合は、ジオールと第2アミンをさらに封入成形により処理、得られたエラストマーをさら

【0073】低下したポアズ圧力又は均等な部分真空によりポリキヤッチャはゲル化を保持することができ、約5〜約8秒間ゲル化した後、金型の中心部に被覆したコアを置いて、真空を解除してコアを取り出すことができる。次いで、コア及びその上の固化したコア層にエーサーハーフを有する金型ハーフを、センターリングした設備キャビネットから除去し、逆にかつ他の金型ハーフと組み合わせることを可能とする。該他の金型ハーフは、適切な早い時期に、その中に導入した選択した量の反応性ポリウレタンポリオリマーと硬化剤を有している。ゲル化の開始時、ブラウニングの米国特許第5,063,679号及びブローの米国特許第5,334,673号、2,977号及びブローの米国特許第5,334,673号の両者も、それぞれが本発明で使用するキヤスチング可能な反応性液体状物を適用するのに使用することができる適切な成形技術を開示している。これらの特徴のそれぞれの開示も、それに対する明示の参照によってそれらの全々を本明細書に意図的に含む。しかしながら、本発明の方法ではこれら全ての参照に限定されず、これを理解するために必要とされることを理解すべきである。

【0074】本明細書の他の態様では、ゴルフ用具及び／又は関連した構造物及び／又はゴルフ用具の一部はポリウレタン組成物を含む。ゴルフ用具の例は以下を含む。クラブ、これに限定されない：ゴルフクラブ（すなわち、パター、ドライバー、アイアン、及びウェッジ）及びクラブの付属品、付随物、又は変形物、例えば打撃フェースインサート；ゴルフクラブの構成品（すなわち、シャフト、ホーズル、及びグリップ）；ゴルフクラブの形状減衰用用具；ゴルフクラブのフェース及びその部分、例えばグローブライナー、安全メタッド（ensuring methods）、パッチ及び強化剤；ゴルフシューズ及び関連した構造物（すなわ

わち、靴底、フットベッド及びスハイタンクネットスビ
ン、ヒールカウチング、トリ「リッパ」、甲革、中底、外
底、ライナー、及びブリーディングフォームスハイキ
ムフルバツタ及びそれに関連した構成員、交換間、及びシ
タングタンク；及び上記諸品の全ての部分。本発明の一つの特
定の態様では、カバーはポリウレタン組成物、ポリウレ
タン／ポリブレン素ブレンド、又はポリ尿素及びポリウレタ
ンアレイノマー組成物を含有し、

[illegible]

【0076】

【実施例】以下の例は説明目的のためにのみ示されており、いずれの方法でも本発明の範囲を制限する意図ではな

材料	配合 I	配合 II
MDI—PTMEG ポリマー ¹⁾	1 当量	1 当量
ETHACURE 900 ²⁾	0.95 当量	0.95 当量
TINUVIN 671 ³⁾	4.5 重量%	—
TINUVIN 765 ⁴⁾	0.1 重量%	—
色分散剤 ⁵⁾	3.5 重量%	3.5 重量%

MD)をベースとしたNOGが6、0%のPHEGを1ポリマー、リンドハース2、INのポリウレタンスベシヤリティ3、5-ジメチルチオ-2,4-4-トールエンジアミン²及び3、5-ジメチルチオ-2,4-4-トールエンジアミン²硬化剤のアイソマー、アルバマー³、⁴、⁵、⁶、⁷、⁸、⁹、¹⁰、¹¹、¹²、¹³、¹⁴、¹⁵、¹⁶、¹⁷、¹⁸、¹⁹、²⁰、²¹、²²、²³、²⁴、²⁵、²⁶、²⁷、²⁸、²⁹、³⁰、³¹、³²、³³、³⁴、³⁵、³⁶、³⁷、³⁸、³⁹、⁴⁰、⁴¹、⁴²、⁴³、⁴⁴、⁴⁵、⁴⁶、⁴⁷、⁴⁸、⁴⁹、⁵⁰、⁵¹、⁵²、⁵³、⁵⁴、⁵⁵、⁵⁶、⁵⁷、⁵⁸、⁵⁹、⁶⁰、⁶¹、⁶²、⁶³、⁶⁴、⁶⁵、⁶⁶、⁶⁷、⁶⁸、⁶⁹、⁷⁰、⁷¹、⁷²、⁷³、⁷⁴、⁷⁵、⁷⁶、⁷⁷、⁷⁸、⁷⁹、⁸⁰、⁸¹、⁸²、⁸³、⁸⁴、⁸⁵、⁸⁶、⁸⁷、⁸⁸、⁸⁹、⁹⁰、⁹¹、⁹²、⁹³、⁹⁴、⁹⁵、⁹⁶、⁹⁷、⁹⁸、⁹⁹、¹⁰⁰、¹⁰¹、¹⁰²、¹⁰³、¹⁰⁴、¹⁰⁵、¹⁰⁶、¹⁰⁷、¹⁰⁸、¹⁰⁹、¹¹⁰、¹¹¹、¹¹²、¹¹³、¹¹⁴、¹¹⁵、¹¹⁶、¹¹⁷、¹¹⁸、¹¹⁹、¹²⁰、¹²¹、¹²²、¹²³、¹²⁴、¹²⁵、¹²⁶、¹²⁷、¹²⁸、¹²⁹、¹³⁰、¹³¹、¹³²、¹³³、¹³⁴、¹³⁵、¹³⁶、¹³⁷、¹³⁸、¹³⁹、¹⁴⁰、¹⁴¹、¹⁴²、¹⁴³、¹⁴⁴、¹⁴⁵、¹⁴⁶、¹⁴⁷、¹⁴⁸、¹⁴⁹、¹⁵⁰、¹⁵¹、¹⁵²、¹⁵³、¹⁵⁴、¹⁵⁵、¹⁵⁶、¹⁵⁷、¹⁵⁸、¹⁵⁹、¹⁶⁰、¹⁶¹、¹⁶²、¹⁶³、¹⁶⁴、¹⁶⁵、¹⁶⁶、¹⁶⁷、¹⁶⁸、¹⁶⁹、¹⁷⁰、¹⁷¹、¹⁷²、¹⁷³、¹⁷⁴、¹⁷⁵、¹⁷⁶、¹⁷⁷、¹⁷⁸、¹⁷⁹、¹⁸⁰、¹⁸¹、¹⁸²、¹⁸³、¹⁸⁴、¹⁸⁵、¹⁸⁶、¹⁸⁷、¹⁸⁸、¹⁸⁹、¹⁹⁰、¹⁹¹、¹⁹²、¹⁹³、¹⁹⁴、¹⁹⁵、¹⁹⁶、¹⁹⁷、¹⁹⁸、¹⁹⁹、²⁰⁰、²⁰¹、²⁰²、²⁰³、²⁰⁴、²⁰⁵、²⁰⁶、²⁰⁷、²⁰⁸、²⁰⁹、²¹⁰、²¹¹、²¹²、²¹³、²¹⁴、²¹⁵、²¹⁶、²¹⁷、²¹⁸、²¹⁹、²²⁰、²²¹、²²²、²²³、²²⁴、²²⁵、²²⁶、²²⁷、²²⁸、²²⁹、²³⁰、²³¹、²³²、²³³、²³⁴、²³⁵、²³⁶、²³⁷、²³⁸、²³⁹、²⁴⁰、²⁴¹、²⁴²、²⁴³、²⁴⁴、²⁴⁵、²⁴⁶、²⁴⁷、²⁴⁸、²⁴⁹、²⁵⁰、²⁵¹、²⁵²、²⁵³、²⁵⁴、²⁵⁵、²⁵⁶、²⁵⁷、²⁵⁸、²⁵⁹、²⁶⁰、²⁶¹、²⁶²、²⁶³、²⁶⁴、²⁶⁵、²⁶⁶、²⁶⁷、²⁶⁸、²⁶⁹、²⁷⁰、²⁷¹、²⁷²、²⁷³、²⁷⁴、²⁷⁵、²⁷⁶、²⁷⁷、²⁷⁸、²⁷⁹、²⁸⁰、²⁸¹、²⁸²、²⁸³、²⁸⁴、²⁸⁵、²⁸⁶、²⁸⁷、²⁸⁸、²⁸⁹、²⁹⁰、²⁹¹、²⁹²、²⁹³、²⁹⁴、²⁹⁵、²⁹⁶、²⁹⁷、²⁹⁸、²⁹⁹、³⁰⁰、³⁰¹、³⁰²、³⁰³、³⁰⁴、³⁰⁵、³⁰⁶、³⁰⁷、³⁰⁸、³⁰⁹、³¹⁰、³¹¹、³¹²、³¹³、³¹⁴、³¹⁵、³¹⁶、³¹⁷、³¹⁸、³¹⁹、³²⁰、³²¹、³²²、³²³、³²⁴、³²⁵、³²⁶、³²⁷、³²⁸、³²⁹、³³⁰、³³¹、³³²、³³³、³³⁴、³³⁵、³³⁶、³³⁷、³³⁸、³³⁹、³⁴⁰、³⁴¹、³⁴²、³⁴³、³⁴⁴、³⁴⁵、³⁴⁶、³⁴⁷、³⁴⁸、³⁴⁹、³⁵⁰、³⁵¹、³⁵²、³⁵³、³⁵⁴、³⁵⁵、³⁵⁶、³⁵⁷、³⁵⁸、³⁵⁹、³⁶⁰、³⁶¹、³⁶²、³⁶³、³⁶⁴、³⁶⁵、³⁶⁶、³⁶⁷、³⁶⁸、³⁶⁹、³⁷⁰、³⁷¹、³⁷²、³⁷³、³⁷⁴、³⁷⁵、³⁷⁶、³⁷⁷、³⁷⁸、³⁷⁹、³⁸⁰、³⁸¹、³⁸²、³⁸³、³⁸⁴、³⁸⁵、³⁸⁶、³⁸⁷、³⁸⁸、³⁸⁹、³⁹⁰、³⁹¹、³⁹²、³⁹³、³⁹⁴、³⁹⁵、³⁹⁶、³⁹⁷、³⁹⁸、³⁹⁹、⁴⁰⁰、⁴⁰¹、⁴⁰²、⁴⁰³、⁴⁰⁴、⁴⁰⁵、⁴⁰⁶、⁴⁰⁷、⁴⁰⁸、⁴⁰⁹、⁴¹⁰、⁴¹¹、

【0077】配合1及び1から製造したカバールを有するゴルフボールを、常用のポリウレタンカバールを有する市售カバールであるゴルフボール、キャラウエイレッド(Callaway Red)、キャラウェイブルー(Callaway Blue)及びマックスフラスターポリューション(Maxfli Revolution)と一緒に、下記のようにUV光に曝した。各型の3つの試料を、クレープブランド(Cleaveland)、OH、のQ-ペネル(Q-Penel)製のUV光(“QUV”)に置き、ASTM-G63に記載されたように暴露した。種々のポリウレタンカバールの色の色度計による測定を、UV光への暴露前、及び、2及び4時間の間隔で行った。各型の一つのボールを、対照としてUV照射に曝さずに残した。QUVを適切、UV照射サイクル中の開始に合

、耐熱性試験器を以て以下の条件のサイクルに
た：UV-340a ランプをつけて空気温度60
・0.0W/m²/nmに制御した照射力。上記のよう
フボールを除去し、ニューウェインパー (NewWind
W) のグレートダマックス (GretagLabeth) から市
に入手可能なマックス (Mabeth) 700A。*

【0078】表2：C*及びL*測定値

	初期色	1時間 QUV	2時間 QUV	4時間 QUV
ボール	C* L*	C* L*	C* L*	C* L*
配合 I	3.8 91.7	14.3 87.9	16.2 87.8	21.2 86.9
キャラウェイ (登録商標) レ ッド	7.7 91.3	31.9 81.7	40.5 77.9	36.3 74.8
配合 II	5.5 91.7	35.5 84.1	38.7 81.7	42.1 76.4
マックスプライ (登録商標) レ ポリュン	10.7 92.4	38.1 83.5	34.1 85.1	42.4 79.5
キャラウェイ (登録商標) プ ルー	5.3 93.1	40.3 80.0	33.1 79.7	37.2 74.5

べたように、C*値を最小化する（「黄化」が少
こと及びL*値を最大化する（より白い）ことが
ハ。上記の表1は、UV照射後に本発明のゴルフ
カバ、配合 I、が最も小さいC*測定値（初期
初）及び最も大きいL*測定値（終期）を有する
明確に示している。これらの結果は配合 I のポリ
ン組成物の色が、常用のポリウレタンカバ組成物
表3：配合 I に対する色差

	初期色	1時間 QUV	2時間 QUV	4時間 QUV
ボール	C* L*	ΔC* ΔL*	ΔC* ΔL*	ΔC* ΔL*
キャラウェイ (登録商標) レ ッド	7.7 91.3	17.6 -6.2	24.3 -9.9	14.1 -11.1
配合 II	5.5 91.7	21.3 -3.8	22.5 -6.1	20.9 -10.6
マックスプライ (登録商標) レ ポリュン	10.7 92.4	23.8 -4.1	17.9 -2.7	21.2 -6.4
キャラウェイ (登録商標) プ ルー	5.3 93.1	28.0 -7.9	16.9 -8.1	16.0 -11.4

り初期色と比較した場合の相対的な色も非常に重
る。表3のデータは、本発明のゴルフボールと比
照別の時間間隔で測定した色の変化である。上記
は、配合 I で使用したUV吸収剤及び光安定剤に
もたらされた色の安定化が、UV光に対して驚く
つ予測し得なかった色の安定化の改良であったこ
に示している。

色を有しているがUV光への暴露によって早期に暗色化
しかつ黄化するポリウレタン組成物が望ましくないこと
は、当業者が気が付いていることであろう。以下の表4
は、本発明の配合 I が優れた初期色（低いC*及び高い
L*）を有するだけでなく、他の市場から入手可能なポ

表4：初期色に対する色の変化

	初期色	1時間 QUV	2時間 QUV	4時間 QUV
ボール	C* L*	ΔC* ΔL*	ΔC* ΔL*	ΔC* ΔL*
配合 I	3.8 91.7	10.5 -3.8	12.4 -3.9	17.4 -5.8
キャラウェイ (登録商標) レ ッド	7.7 91.3	24.2 -9.6	32.8 -13.4	37.6 -16.5
マックスプライ (登録商標) プ ルー	10.7 92.4	27.4 -8.9	23.4 -7.3	31.7 -12.9
レポリュン	5.5 90.3	30.1 -6.2	33.2 -8.6	36.6 -14.9
キャラウェイ (登録商標) プ ルー	5.3 93.1	35.0 -13.1	27.8 -13.4	31.9 -18.6

図3は、配合 I（本発明）、配合 II（色安定化バッケ
ジを含まない）、及び他の三つの市場から入手可能なポ
リウレタンカバのゴルフボールについて三つの時間
間隔で測定したC*、ΔC*の変化をグラフで示してい
る。

【0081】表3のカラー配合物を製造し、これはPMS
1088 (D65) / PMS 2000 をベースとしたブルーカラー
をETHACURE 900+3、5% HCC-19564（白色懸濁物）
+ 0.0% Glisorb W-1（UV吸収剤）+ 0.1% TI
nvin 705 (HALS)（「配合3」）で硬化させたも
のを含む。ASTM D654-00aにより上記と同様の条件、
染料カルダー及び資料作成でQUVを行った。1、2、7
cm（1/2インチ）直径のポートを使用したこと以外 ※

表5：初期色

ボール	初期	Y i	L*	a*	b*
配合3		1.9	90.0	-3.3	1.7
配合1		3.9	90.3	-4.0	-0.3
マックスプライ レポリュン		25.5	92.0	1.1	9.8
キャラウェイ レッド		18.6	90.2	-1.6	6.9
キャラウェイ ブルー		12.6	96.3	-1.8	3.6
配合2		1.1	90.0	3.0	-2.2

ΔE*は全色変化である。
ΔE* = ΔL*² + Δa*² + Δb*² の平方根である。
次いでCIELAB系の値を異なる時間間隔で測定し元の値
と比較した。データを以下の表6に示す。
【表6】

*リウレタンカバのゴルフボールと比較して、驚くべ
きかつ予測し得なかった低い速度で色変化することを示
している。

表4：初期色に対する色の変化

トページの続き

出願番号	出願日	発明の名称	発明者	代理人
01.7	5/3435	8 K	FI	5/3435
8 L	75/04	8 L	COL	75/04
出願者	シエンセン ウ	ミツチエル イー ルツ	(72)発明者	
	アメリカ合衆国 マサチューセッツ州	アメリカ合衆国 マサチューセッツ州		
02747	ノース ダートマス オールド	02719	フェアヘイヴン セダー ストリ	
ウェストポート ロード 334		ート 55		
出願者	ケヴィン エム ハリス	F	ターム(参考)	4,002
アメリカ合衆国 マサチューセッツ州		EL096	EL046	EL026
02740	ニュー ベッドフォード ライヤ	EL096	EL116	EP016
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